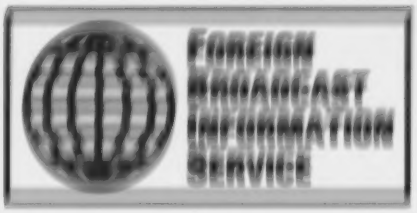

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Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf on Dialogue; U.S., Israeli Positions

JN0512204489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Dec 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] Mr Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, the Fatah movement's second in command, has cast doubt on the possibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue soon, or as long as Yitzhaq Shamir heads the enemy government.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', he said that in the event that such a dialogue takes place, the popular intifadah will not be stopped. The intifadah will not stop even if elections are held in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abu-Iyad's statement came only a few hours after Palestinian Ambassador to Tunis Hakam Bal'awi submitted the PLO's reply to Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador there.

Salah Khalaf explained that the PLO awaits a U.S. reply. He pointed out that it [the PLO] will publish all questions and answers exchanged between the two sides from 15 October until this December. He described Baker's plan as nebulous, giving the PLO an invisible role through which it has to agree to the plan, and then hand over the whole cause to the Egyptian Government.

Khalaf said that the issue of representation is the Palestinian people's greatest achievement throughout the past 70 years and cannot be discarded.

Abu-Iyad expressed his belief that the Palestinian reply to the Baker plan was very flexible, but not concessionary. He said that this is the last thing the PLO can offer.

Abu-Iyad stated the need for continuing the intifadah. He said that it should be accompanied by supportive factors to convince Israel that there is no alternative to the independent Palestinian state and that autonomy will not be acceptable to the Palestinian people.

In answer to a question on the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas's role, Abu-Iyad said that all Palestinian factions work in one melting pot. However, he noted that some Hamas Movement leaders are trying to gain prominance in isolation from the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah in order to become an alternative force to the PLO. Khalaf revealed that some of the Hamas leaders asked the Palestinian people inside to oppose the Palestine National Council resolutions in Algiers, but nobody responded to this request. He said that Hamas was now coordinating with the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah through the Fatah Movement despite the fact that some are calling for separation and division and are attempting to assume the role of the alternative.

Salah Khalaf admitted the growth of Hamas in the West Bank and said that the reason for that, in his opinion, goes back to the Israeli-U.S. logic. He explained that some Hamas individuals are calling for liberating Palestine from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea, individuals such as Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Others accept the political proposals and current intiatives, and even the elections, ordering the [Hamas] movement not to open the door to what he described as Iranian currents to enter the Palestinian arena because "these currents will tear apart the Palestinian people." Abu-Iyad went so far as to say that in the event we get to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the PLO is thinking of making the Hamas Movement lead the Palestinian delegation because the Palestinian leadership deals with this movement as part of the Palestinian people.

Khalaf expressed his fear that the changes taking place in Eastern Europe will affect Western Europe's current policy on the Palestine question. At the same time, he expressed his fears over changes taking place in East European countries known for their traditional support for the Palestinian right to self-determination and independence.

In answer to a question on the extent of the effects of these changes on Israel, Abu-Iyad said that the changes might decrease Israel's strategic importance. He expressed his belief that a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East would diminish Israel's strategic value and that because of this, it would reject peace.

Salah Khalaf described the Soviet position as positive. However, he did admit the presence of changes, pointing to the open immigration of Soviet Jews and the undeclared contacts between Soviet and Israeli officials.

Concerning the U.S. position, Abu-Iyad said that the United States still sees the Palestinian State as a danger to Israel and the region. He added that in accordance with this, the United States is refusing to recognize the PLO or deal with it directly.

KUNA Cites Israeli Official on Deportees Issue

LD0312211989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1858 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 3 (KUNA)—An Israeli official denied a report published in Kuwait that Israel has informed the United States of its acceptance of including Palestinian deportees in the Palestinian delegation for the proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks.

In a broadcast monitored by KUNA, Radio Israel quoted counselor for information at the prime minister's office as saying that this issue was not discussed during the recent visit of Yitzhaq Shamir to Washington.

"The report published by the Kuwaiti paper is a mere lie and baseless," the official said.

Quoting unidentified source in the U.S. State Department, Kuwaiti daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM said today that

Shamir has accepted that the proposed talks with Palestinians can be carried out with a Palestinian delegation formed of deportees in addition to others.

PLO To 'Unify' Security Bodies Under Salah Khalaf

PM0512153189 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p14

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Iyad Head of All Palestinian Security Organs"]

[Text] In accordance with the resolutions passed by Fatah's fifth general congress in Tunis last August, the Palestinian leadership decided at a recent meeting to unify all Palestinian security organs in one body which has been called the Palestinian National Security Organ. Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) has been chosen to head this organ, which in addition to the Unified Security Organ also combines the Central Security Organ, the Protection Forces, and Force-17 which now carries the new name of "the Presidential Guard Organ."

In line with that decision, two deputies have been chosen for Abu-Iyad. They are Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid (Abu-Rida) and Hakam Bal'awi (Abu-Marwan).

This step is expected to restore the Palestinian Security Organ's prestige and prevent duplication, which caused some grave mistakes in the past.

U.S. Stand at UN, PLO Detractors Viewed

JN0312123089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1947 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Political commentary: "Spotlights on the Palestinian and Arab Stand on Confrontation and Dialogue With the United States"]

[Text] The U.S. position inside the United Nations concerning its opposition to the issue of accepting the State of Palestine as an observer, as well as its stance on the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], which has not submitted to U.S. pressure and threats, presents many questions. It also sheds light on the Arab position in general from the diplomatic battle fought by the PLO alongside the heroic intifadah of our people on the road to liberation, independence, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Since the start of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, some elements, especially in the media and journalism fields in our area, have been criticizing the PLO for continuing this dialogue. When the hardline U.S. stands such as the ones we mentioned emerge, they resort to increasing their criticism, believing that they can prove the soundness of their position, rationale, and perspectives. They are satisfied with such criticisms as a weapon to confront U.S. aggression against our people and nation.

This could be an occasion to recast light on the Palestinian position on this issue. First, the Palestinians have never had any misconceptions, past or present, about the fact that the United States has cast itself as protector, supporter, and backer of Israel's policies and occupation. Therefore, the first obstacle in the way of the Palestinian struggle is represented by the U.S. position of unlimited support for the Zionist entity, along with the continuous U.S. rejection of the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Second, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was not the result of begging; it is the direct result and the first fruit of our people's heroic intifadah. The issue of dialogue with the Americans lies at the core of means to serve the strategic goals of our people, the most important of which is to reach a state of U.S. recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Third, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is based on a dialogue between the U.S. Government and the PLO, and came after all U.S. attempts failed as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people [sentence as heard]. Everyone remembers the most recent of these attempts when Shultz, former U.S. secretary of state, visited the occupied territories and went to the Jerusalem Hotel; however, none of our people's struggling sons came to meet him.

Fourth, although dialogue in its general form is between a national liberation movement and a global superpower, the PLO has proven that it is capable of confronting all pressures and all intended attempts to abandon the goals of the just Palestinian struggle, foremost of which is the goal of self-determination—a sacred right of every nation on the face of the earth.

Fifth, the U.S. stand on the FAO and the UN General Assembly, which is preparing to vote on accepting Palestine as an observer, indicates that the U.S. attack on our people, our Palestinian state, and the PLO is a continuous attack. At the same time, this shows U.S. attempts to put psychological, moral, and political pressure on our people, our intifadah, and the masses of the Palestinian people who are preparing to enter the third year of the heroic intifadah.

The Americans do not expose their weapons except in the face of the Palestinians, because they alone are the ones who are actively confronting their schemes and those of the U.S.-Zionist hegemony.

Sixth, the PLO—the leader of our people—is fighting its struggle and political battles in an open arena. In these battles of honor, it is offering martyrs and tens of thousands of injured. It could win this round or lose others in its political battles. However, this organization is supported by the masses of the intifadah and Palestine, since it carries the torch of liberation and independence.

The PLO surpasses all its detractors in that it is an active and effective force waging battles of confrontation, whereas others remain content to spout rhetoric and level criticism. This rhetoric and criticism should have targeted the deteriorating Arab state of affairs and Arab

capitulation in the face of the U.S. imperialist domination. These detractors have shown themselves to be impotent and incapable of supporting and backing our people's heroic intifadah. Besides, these detractors have also proven themselves to be incapable of defending the Arab nation's dignity, pride, and free will. He who believes that the ideal answer to the hostile U.S. stand is to suspend the U.S-Palestinian dialogue is providing proof of his impotence and inability to brandish his weapons to face up to this stand.

To continue or suspend the dialogue is an issue to be decided by the Palestinians. Any decision in this regard is first and foremost dictated by the interests of the Palestinian national struggle. We are well aware that we are holding a dialogue with our major adversary and our archenemy. However, we know that we still have our weapons in our hands. Moreover, the whole world testifies to our daily sacrifices and massacres. This is happening while others remain content with twiddling their thumbs. When the American bares his teeth, they turn with their teeth toward the Palestinians instead of making a logical and sound response; that is, a response showing total moral, material, and political support for the PLO in its political battles and in its continuous war. The reference here is, of course, to our people's heroic intifadah, which enters its third year at a time when these detractors have not moved a muscle.

Our people will not give up their objectives and gains. They will not bring their intifadah to a halt, just because the United States opposes our presence at the United Nations and its institutions as an observer state. Furthermore, the attempts being made by the United States and the Zionist lobby will not deter our people from continuing their struggle, their fight, their intifadah, and their political battle to achieve a just peace that will ensure for the Palestinians the establishment of an independent state on their dear national soil.

While on the eve of entering the third year of our blessed intifadah, we would like to affirm to friends and foes alike with all certainty and with all the faith that within the bosoms of our people that the intifadah will continue, and that the march of the Palestinian struggle will accelerate toward victory. This is the only thing we can bet on; and it is a strong and indefatigable wager. It is a reflection of our free will, of the free will of the Palestinian people. Our homeland might be occupied; however, our will is not occupied. Endowed with this trait, our people will forge victory, as the free are those who forge victory. Besides, they are the ones who are not afraid to fight their enemy in all arenas of struggle and defiance, be it a political, militant, or military arena.

There is one last word that we would like to say to our dear Arab nation: Palestine and the Palestinian people are nowadays in dire need of your swords, not your prayers. Palestine and the Palestinian people today need more than ever before to see the nation act quickly to defend its free will, its will to participate in the battle for Palestine, the battle of the intifadah, the battle of the continuous struggle against Zionism and Israel, and also against U.S. imperialism, which is behind all the misfortunes that have befallen our people and also behind all the problems faced by our nation. For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [part of a Koranic verse]

U.S. 'Threats' Against UN Agencies Viewed

JN0112213389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1953 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Political commentary: "The American Record Toward Our People and Their Just Goals Grows Worse and Worse"]

[Text] Brothers: Children of our great Palestinian people; children of our glorious Arab nation. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has stated the determination of the Palestinian people to carry on their struggle and intifadah in the interest of their objectives and the attainment of their national, inalienable rights—most of all, the right to self-determination. People around the world recently observed the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. In the meantime, the United States, as is its wont, issued unabashed, public threats against specialized UN agencies like UNESCO and WHO. It warned them against raising the level of Palestinian representation in these agencies to the status of a state and then to full-fledged membership. The spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department declared that her administration would cut off financial contributions to these world organizations if they did so.

The U.S. veto, both direct and indirect, has a long black history against our people, cause, and just struggle. On countless occasions, the U.S. Administration has been the only nation to side with Israel in spurning resolutions of the international community and raising barriers and obstacles on the road toward even-handed peace. The United States has even indirectly used armed force through its Zionist arm in the region with the object of destroying any peace efforts and returning the region to the whirlwind. Examples: The United States gave full support to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982; it gave Israel the green light to strafe PLO headquarters in 1985; the U.S. Administration jointly masterminded with Israel the murder of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis in the spring of 1988.

The American record of hostility to our people, struggle, and our just goals, grows increasingly blacker. The American connivance with and unabashed bias in favor of the Zionist entity gets clearer and clearer as does the ugly American face. It is becoming clear by the day that the United States is opposed to any peace overtures. The past year brought all of this to the fore after the PLO, through the 19th Palestine National Council's session, announced its peace offensive and proclaimed Palestinian independence. It now emerges that the utterances and idiom emanating from the U.S. Administration over the years were nothing but sham. It has become evident

that the United States does not want peace but capitulation. It is not interested in an even-handed settlement; all it wants is for the intifadah to be put down. The United States does not want to rein in Israel's irredentism, insanity, and aggression. If anything, it wants to cover up for Israel and force submission to Israel on others.

These American policies are bound to make this part of the world an even more volatile region. Having lost credibility, the United States will not be able to sell its policies. The tension produced by these biased American positions in collusion with Israel will prove an impediment to acceptance of the U.S. approach to a solution to the issues of the region. Against such a background, our heroic Palestinian people, led by their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO, are determined to carry on and escalate their struggle with all means at their disposal. The Palestinian people are resolved to single-mindedly pursue their blessed intifadah until they attain the goals of independence and the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The situation is such that our Arab brother who have adopted all the Palestinian political options are required to take a determined stand vis-a-vis the American policy which revealed its unambiguous antagonism, leaving no margin for maneuvers. It is victory until victory.

PNC on U.S. Nonrecognition of Palestinian State

JN0612100489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—[Palestine National Council Speaker] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has held the United States responsible for not reaching a peaceful solution in the Middle East due to its continuous support for the Zionist entity in arms, funds, and use of the veto.

He said: The declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state was a successful and necessary step because we are exercising our natural right, like all people, to declare the establishment of an independent state on the national Palestinian soil.

In a statement published by the newspaper AL-THAWRAH here today, he added: The world has responded to this declaration, and 114 states have recognized our state. This proves that the overwhelming majority of world states has recognized our legitimate right to establish an independent state, judged in favor of the soundness of this step, and realized that the reason behind this declaration is the Palestinian people's need to establish a state.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih stressed that the Palestinian people will continue their blessed intifadah until victory is achieved and the Palestinian state is established.

PNC Official Cited on Intifadah, Kelly Visit

JN0512205789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Sa'id Kan'an, member of the Palestine National Council, PNC, in Nabulus, the West Bank, by Faridah al-Shubashi in the studio, on 5 December—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Mr Sa'id Kan'an, we begin by asking you about the situation in Nabulus city.

[Kan'an] The curfew has been in force since last Friday. Today is the end of 5 December. It has been a nonstop curfew. There is a complete blockade of supplies and there is shortage in foodstuffs, particularly in the Qasbah area. There is no bread, milk, kerosene, cooking gas, or other supplies. The situation is very grim. Continuous arrests are being made, with a taxation offensive and a house-to-house searches. This situation has been continuing for 5 days and I believe that they will continue this until after 10 December, the beginning of the 3d year of the intifadah.

[Al-Shubashi] Israeli repression is rife all over the occupied territory. Can you tell us why Nabulus in particular was exposed to this great degree of repression and tyranny?

[Kan'an] Nabulus is the true capital of the intifadah. You are aware that the number of martyrs, wounded, and arrested was the greatest in Nabulus. The Israeli authorities believe that if they bring Nabulus to its knees, the rest of the West Bank will follow. Therefore, the Israeli authorities are now bent on forcing Nabulus to its knees in order to abort the intifadah. Nevertheless, the people's morale is high and they do not fear for the intifadah at all.

[Al-Shubashi] In 2 days, the intifadah will enter its 3d year. Yet, the Israelis are betting on an end to the intifadah.

[Kan'an] The Israelis have been wagering on an end to the intifadah from the first week. You recall what Rabin said during his U.S. visit. He said: By the time I return to the occupied territory, the intifadah will have ended.

Now we are beginning the 3d year of the intifadah and we are absolutely resolved not to stop or retreat until we acquire our full legitimate rights, particularly Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state under the PLO leadership, our sole legitimate representative. We reject the Israeli wager. We are also betting on the fact that we will continue our struggle and that the intifadah will escalate day by day. We will live and see.

[Al-Shubashi] Abu Iyad has stated that the PLO reply to the Baker proposals is very positive. Today, President Mubarak received in Cairo John Kelly, the U.S. assistance secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian

affairs. What does the intifdadah have to do with the Baker and Shamir plans and the diplomatic moves connected with them?

[Kan'an] We in the intifadah approve of what the PLO approves. It is our leadership and the party trusted to talk about our fate. We support anything that the leadership approves. There are contacts and exchanges of views on this subject. In fact the Palestinian reply was very positive and did not contain impossible conditions like Israel's. We want to be delivered from the occupation; we have shown great flexibility, and we believe that the ball is now in the Israeli court. World public opinion should pressure Shamir to stop his hardline attitude and recognize international legitimacy and the Palestinian right of self- determination.

In any case, John Kelly was in Jerusalem this morning. I contacted him and invited him to visit Nabulus to see for himself the violations of human rights in the occupied territory. He apologized and said his schedule was very tight. He left for Cairo at about noon today.

Official on Ties With Arabs, Moscow; Intifadah

NC0312155889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian Interior Minister Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid has emphasized the importance of Egyptian-Palestinian coordination in the service of the Palestinian people's national issues. He said: We are benefiting from Egypt's standing in international arenas, under President Husni Mubarak, in the effort to achieve the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, foremost among which is their right to establish an independent state of their own on their national soil.

In a statement to MENA, 'Abd-al-Hamid said that the Palestinian intifadah will continue and intensify until the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights are recognized. He stressed that there is complete unity and cohesion among the Palestinian citizens inside and outside the occupied territory, under the PLO's leadership. He called on the Arab countries to increase their assistance to the Palestinian intifadah in every way. He noted that the Palestinian people and establishments do not only need media help but other forms of aid as well so that they can remain steadfast against all attempts at repression and starvation practised by the the occupation authorities against the Palestinian citizens.

On the Soviet stand, 'Abd-al-Hamid said that the Soviet Union is a friend of the Palestinian cause and it represents a superpower supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle. He said that differences of view do not mean a change in the Soviet Union's stand. He said that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat had sent a message to Soviet leader Gorbachev before the Soviet-U.S. summit. On the meetings of the Arab interior ministers, 'Abd-al-Hamid said: We told the ministers that the resolutions passed by their conference are sufficient, but we want them to be implemented. He said that certain Arab countries have kept their word, maintaining efforts to reduce the Palestinian people's suffering in their territory. We appreciate the security circumstances of the Arab countries, but Palestinians are in need of more help.

PLO Official Explains 'Symbolic' Identity Cards

JN0412210089 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 3 Dec 89 p 1

[By Muhammad al-Duhaym]

[Text] Palestinian embassies and PLO offices throughout the world started to issue Palestinian identity cards and family books as of yesterday, 2 December. Palestinian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Rafiq al-Natshah said that these identity cards are of symbolic significance to the Palestinian people.

In a statement to AL-YAWM, Al-Natshah said: I hope the issue of the identity card will not be misinterpreted. We look forward to giving our people a real Palestinian identity card on the basis of real Palestinian citizenship that will be based on its liberated land in Palestine. He added: Until this takes place, we will continue to depend on the documents and passports the sons of our people obtain from fraternal and friendly countries.

Al-Natshah said that this identity card is a symbolic gesture for the Palestinian people, stating they are affiliated to the Palestinian homeland. He added that the identity card does not have the characteristics of a passport that any person can use in his travels. It is a symbolic issue itended to highlight affiliation to the Palestinian homeland and the Palestinian state. It is also a form of financial assistance, because the acquisition of the identity card requires paying a fee in support of the intifadah. Al-Natshah added: At the same time, this political, national, and symbolic identity card gives the person the honor of citizenship. He added that the identity card is not for official use.

News reports in Kuwait yesterday cited the Palestinian ambassador in Kuwait as saying that all Palestinian embassies began to issue the identity cards yesterday.

'Arafat Sends Messages to Kuwait, YAR, UK Envoys

LD0412190989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Summary] Yasir 'Arafat sent messages to His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad of Kuwait, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and to the UK Government via the Kuwaiti, YAR, and British envoys to Tunisia in Tunis. The messages concerned the current political developments of the Palestinian issue in the various arenas and the current situation in the occupied territories.

More on UK Message

JN0412205889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, sent a message to the UK Government dealing with the current situation and the latest developments in the Palestine question. Brother Abu-'Ammar conveyed the message to the UK ambassador in Tunis the day before yesterday. The meeting was attended by Fatah Central Committee member brother Hakam Bal'awi. During the meeting, brother Abu-'Ammar reviewed the current situation in the occupied territories in light of the grave escalation of the terrorist practices against our Palestinian people.

No Option Left for Intifadah But Battlefield

JN0212214289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1859 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Talk of the intifadah: "The Blessed Palestinian Intifadah: Will It Take the Arab Nation Back to the Axioms of the Clear Facts"]

[Text] Brothers: sons of our great Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation; in strong and vigorous escalation toward its new days, new months, and new years, the blessed Palestinian intifadah is revealing to us the shining face of the facts and makes all of us in this nation—rulers and ruled—throw off the game of defeatism and mystery, and of escape to doubts from certainty. This blessed Palestinian intifadah—through the sacrifices of its valiant people, the creative acts of its giant generations, the blood of its pure martyrs, and the comprehensive nature of its great resolution— have forced all Arabs, in all of their countries, to go back to the axioms of the shining facts without beating around the bush and without deception or maneuvering; that is, if all Arabs are seriously trying to find an honorable, noble role for them in this world, in which only the strong people who adhere to their rights and objectives and who are loyal to their just causes, live.

The first of these axioms is that the militant Palestinian people have managed, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, to give proof after proof of the power of their giving, the clarity of their vision, the greatness of their sacrifices, and the firmness of their adherence to their right to attain national independence through outstanding revolutionary action in the battlefield and through conscious flexibility in the forums of international politics. Their valiant intifadah, which is now preparing to ascend to its 3d year, and their political initiative, which they launched on 15 November 1988 and was adopted by Arabs in their Casablanca summit, vouch for this.

The second of these axioms is that through their heroic, ceaseless battle with the Zionist occupation, the Palestinian people are only defending the Arab nation—its security, existence, and general order—against an onslaught whose ambition goes as far as to want to fragment this nation, impose its hegemony, and make it history. Now, here is the Zionist hand extending to Lebanon, southern Sudan, and the Arab nation's borders in Ethiopia. If it were not for this steadfast Palestinian fortress, which—at least and as everybody knows—neutralizes the effectiveness of more than 100,000 Zionist soldiers and continues to make that Zionist body bleed, the picture would be a thousand times more serious. Hence, he who supports Palestine will only be supporting himself because Palestine is the gate to Arab security.

The third axiom is that Israel has only one concept of peace. This is the total capitulation of the Arab nation to the Zionist empire's dreams, schemes, and ambitions. The common ground among leaders of that malicious, damned Zionist entity—from the most extreme to the most moderate—is that they believe that Israel's security must come before anybody else's security and interests. These Zionist leaders want both peace and territory, and nothing less.

The fourth axiom is that this Israeli method, intransigence, terrorism, and occupation does not spring from Israel's power or from the Zionist self, which is meager, receding, and insignificant; nor is it due to the genius of the Zionist entity's leaders, the bravery of the soldiers, or the wisdom of the herds of settlers. Rather, it is due to the United States—the weapons of the United States, the money of the United States, and the policies of the United States of America. This United States of America which is absolutely hostile to the Palestinians people, which absolutely holds in contempt the Arab nation, and which is absolutely biased in favor of its interests, at the head of which is the Zionist presence and the Zionist expansion at the expense of the Arab presence.

In view of the clarity of all these axioms, the question that knocks on every Arab door—that of the ruler and the ruled—is: What is the alternative, what is the Arab alternative? The amir of Kuwait is worthy of all praise because he took the effort to answer the question, dotting the i's and crossing the t's when he openly called for transforming Arab solidarity from beautiful, eloquent words into action on the battlefield. This is because we have no option left but this option as long as the United States is standing in the hostile trench, destroying the table of presumed negotiations, and striking with an iron fist against any attempt in the name of peace. There is only the battlefield left, not only for the sake of Palestine, but so that the whole of the Arabs' land will not become a Palestine.

These many signs confirm what we say. So, will the Arabs return to the axioms of the shining facts? Will any of them, or all of them, escape from this status quo and this difficult situation? We declare that we, the sons of the Palestinian people and masses of this blessed intifadah, will continue the fight and struggle with all the

power we have until all resources and factors are massed to establish this desired Arab stance. Revolution until victory.

PFLP-GC Official on 'Zionist Enemy' Raids

JN0512183689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1737 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

For the fourth time this week, the Zionist enemy continued to launch its savage and barbaric raids against the PFLP-GC's bases and positions with the aim of infringing on our stand and steadfastness against schemes of liquidation and disgrace—schemes which are led by the Arabs of defection and capitulation and those who follow the capitulationist course in the Palestinian arena.

At 1150 on Tuesday, 5 December 1989, the American Zionist enemy warplanes raided the PFLP-GC's offices in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The Zionist enemy failed to achieve its objective in inflicting casualties on our fighters, and no human or material losses were inflicted on our troops. Material and human losses were inflicted on children and women in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The PFLP-GC engineering units defused the time missiles that the raiding American Zionist warplanes dropped.

We in the PFLP-GC affirm our determination to stand fast in our support of our kinsfolk in their intifadah against the Zionist enemy and to reject all proposed concession plans. We vow to continue the struggle on the path of liberating land and man.

Egypt

Mubarak Condemns Killing of Comoros President

NC0512220589 Cairo MENA in English 2135 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, Dec 5 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak condemned, in his capacity as president of Egypt and chief of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane of Comoros, perpetrated by a group of mercenaries, who managed to have the situation in hand by force after committing this crime.

President Mubarak said continuation of control of the fate of an independent African state by mercenaries against the will of its people is flagrant violation of the principles of international law and a despicable encroachment upon legitimacy unacceptable to the member-states of the OAU and the interntional community. The president expressed his extreme concern about the situation in the sister country of Comoros and condemned on behalf of the OAU this interference on the part of mercenaries in the internal affairs of an OAU member country. The president underlined that all the OAU member-states stood by the people of Comoros and its legitimate institutions vis-a-vis infringement upon their sovereignty and freedom.

President Mubarak, while making this statement tonight, called upon the international community to take all measures needed to put an end to this flagrant intereference.

Mubarak, 'Abd-al-Majid Meet With Kelly, Wisner

NC0512144489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1357 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received John Kelly, U.S. under secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador in Cairo, attended the meeting.

John Kelly arrived in Cairo this afternoon. After his visit to Egypt he will visit Jordan, Saudi Arabia, India, and Pakistan to brief the leaders of those countries on the outcome of the U.S.-USSR summit which was held last Saturday and Sunday off the coast of Malta.

Kelly Leaves Cairo for Jordan

NC0612072889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East and South Asia affairs, left Cairo for Amman this morning after a 1-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, Kelly met with President Mubarak and briefed him on the outcome of the Malta summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He also held talks with senior Egyptian officials on issues of common interest.

Kelly arrived in Cairo yesterday from Tel Aviv, where he met with Israeli officials to discuss the situation in the region.

U.S., USSR Ambassadors Review Mideast Affairs

JN0412110089 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 1 Dec 89 pp 16-19, 57

["Joint Interview" with Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Egypt, and Gennadiy Zhuravlev, USSR ambassador to Egypt, by 'Abd-al-Tawwab 'Abd-al-Hayy in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Hayy] In the wake of his meeting with President Bush, Yitzhaq Shamir has stated he still insists on not exchanging land for peace—a major principle of the four principles that constitute the general outlines of the U.S. President's policy to resolve the Middle East problem. Shamir also blocks any opportunity for negotiations before the Palestinian legitimacy.

U.S. ambassador: I believe in order to come closer to peace in the Middle East we must move step by step. If we sit down now to write "the last chapter" in the solution to the problem, our work will not be realistic. We must start with the first step; and the right beginning is to make the Palestinians and Israelis sit at the table and embark on negotiations. They must build mutual confidence and common understanding. We believe there is some reasoning in the Israeli initiative to hold elections in the occupied territory. The elections will produce Palestinian representatives who will participate in reinforcing the mutual confidence for a transitional period. Afterwards, dialogue could continue on the final settlement which, we believe, should be based on Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as on the principle of exchanging land for peace.

I would like to say that our experiment, as well as that of Egypt, in making peace in the region calls on us to move carefully—step by step—not to solve the problem first and then begin the steps of solution.

USSR ambassador: Israel's rejection of the exchange of land for peace is a destructive stand that blocks all of the concerned parties' plans to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

['Abd-al-Hayy] But the idea of elections in the Shamir initiative is still ambiguous and the ultimate objective is unknown. Mubarak's 10 points seek a clarification of the ambiguity in the Shamir plan to make it applicable and fruitful. Then came Baker's five points, the PLO's seven points, and Israel's seven points, which clashed with all these points and prevented their interaction. Recently, the PLO's response to the Baker plan includes five other

points whose content rejects the plan of the U.S. secretary of state. Amid a collection of 34 different political points, I want to ask you: Where to go from here? Do you see a possibility for achieving any progress?

U.S. ambassador: I believe that we achieved some progress when Israel accepted the Baker plan in its general outlines. We are still waiting for a response that binds us to embark on negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. And there is the important Egyptian role. Egypt is a strategic partner to the United States in giving momentum to the peace process, and President Mubarak's 10 points played an effective role in finding a formula to activate the issue in cooperation with the United States.

You asked me: Where to go from here? My answer: The moment the two parties agree to move, the negotiations will begin. And the elections will be held to choose Palestinian representatives who are authorized to hold negotiations on the temporary arrangements and to clear the way for negotiations to decide the final legitimate status of the occupied territory.

USSR ambassador: You are right, there is no shortage of political points to resolve the issue. The shortage is in the Israeli side which does not recognize the basic principle for a fair solution—that is, the balance of the parties' interests. The PLO stand has moved great positive steps, but regrettably, these steps were not accompanied by similar moves on the Israeli side.

['Abd-al-Hayy] But, what comes after the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo and the meeting of the three foreign ministers in Washington? Will the international conference become the next station?

U.S. ambassador: The United States believes that the international conference can play a role. But, the current objective is to embark on negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides—an event that takes place for the first time in the history of relations between them. This vital step will clear the way for peace. But, how we can ensure the arrangements and guarantees of the international conference is a stage that follows the achievement of the main objective—that is, the embarkment of negotiations.

USSR ambassador: The entire international community admits that the convening of the international conference is the only way to find solutions that are accepted by all parties and to lay down the bases and guarantees of a comprehensive peace.

['Abd-al-Hayy] First, if we distribute roles among those dealing with the Middle East peace process, will Washington be a partner or just a broker?

U.S. ambassador: Since 1948 international interests have made it incumbent on the United States to play a permanent role in the Middle East peace issue. We were here in 1956. In the aftermath of the 1967 war we contributed toward the issuance of Resolutions 242 and 338. Afterwards, we played a major role in the disengagement agreements following the 1973 war. We have also been a major partner in the Camp David accords and the peace treaty.

As you see, the United States is a full partner, not merely a broker.

['Abd-al-Hayy] Secondly, how and when will Moscow have a tangible role in the peace process?

USSR ambassador: We are holding contacts at all levels with the United States on a settlement in the Middle East. We are ready to support any new proposals leading to a solution to the dispute.

U.S. ambassador: Indeed, the Soviet Union has a major role to play—a role it is actually playing on the level of joint talks with the United States on the peace process and regional disputes in general. But to play a more important role, Moscow has to make some essential decisions. First, it should tell the Palestinians and the Syrians that it supports the current negotiation efforts and the Baker plan. Second, if the Soviet Union wants to be a full partner to the peace process it should establish official relations with Israel, and not merely secret relations. You cannot take part in a game if you do not have a relationship with all its parties.

['Abd-al-Hayy] Thirdly, how long will the United States and Israel continue to ignore the PLO's direct and genuine role in the peace process, being the sole, legitimate and recognized representative of all Palestinians?

U.S. ambassador: We have an open dialogue with the PLO in Tunis. One of the results of this dialogue is that the PLO renounced terrorism. Our plan is to continue this dialogue. On the other hand, Israel did not open such a dialogue with the PLO. Why not? Because the history of past years recorded the death of many Israelis during acts of violence launched by the PLO. Therefore, the Israelis believe that the PLO does not want peace and that its aim is to destroy them. There is no way to have Israel open a dialogue with a party it does not want to negotiate with.

Therefore, we should be realistic and head toward the possible objective: Bring the Palestinians and the Israelis to the negotiating table to discuss the election plan and to formulate it so as to become applicable.

['Abd-al-Hayy] Fourthly, where does the role of the international community, represented by the UN Security Council permanent member states, fit in?

USSR ambassador: The UN Security Council permanent member states and the EC states have a positive stand and their efforts must be given a chance to produce results.

U.S. ambassador: Who are the parties that can make a durable peace in the region? They are the Palestinians and the Israelis. Therefore, let them hold negotiations

first. Afterwards, all means can be studied to involve other parties interested in the peace process.

['Abd-al-Hayy] In a study on the Middle East, the U.S. Rand Institute concluded that the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza will be a near future necessity. Yitzhaq Shamir has a contradictory point of view. He believes that the establishment of a Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine will be political suicide for Israel. How can such an unjust, misleading hypothesis be founded?

U.S. ambassador: With respect to the Rand Institute and the great researchers working for it, the Institute's opinion represents the private U.S. opinion. The official U.S. opinion of the U.S. Administration, since the beginning of the term of President Reagan in 1980, indicates that the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is an idea that will not succeed, and that it is better to link it with a confederation with Jordan.

['Abd-al-Hayy] When you read in the morning newspapers that the Israeli forces killed a youth from the intifadah strugglers, chopped off his head, and gave his body to his parents as they did recently with martyr Muhammad Abu-Nasir in the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, how do you honestly feel and what is your reaction as a human being?

U.S. ambassador: I have no knowledge of this incident. However, any violent act stirs my feelings the same as any person who seeks to pursue, try, and punish the culprit. I believe that this is not the time to exchange blame and each party to say to the other: Look, what an ugly crime you perpetrated. Such things escalate tension. What is required is to ease tension so that all parties will sit at the negotiating table to draw up the future.

USSR ambassador: Violence begets violence. The Israeli policy of killing and repression has reduced Israel's friends and isolated it in the international community.

['Abd-al-Hayy] But, what will happen if the Shamir government continues with its stubborness to the extent that it aborts the valuable peace opportunities in front of us now? Can you imagine the seriousness of a future explosion in the region?

USSR ambassador: It is obvious so far that Israel adopts the policy of war, not peace. And its adherence to the strategy of maintaining the present situation will not result in a peaceful solution nor in pacifying the situation in the occupied territory but will result in a conflagration in the region whose consequences cannot be predicted.

U.S. ambassador: In my opinion, the individual should develop what is in his hands. On 14 May, the Shamir government laid down a plan to come closer to peace. We must pick it up, exploit it, and advance along the path of settlement. Despite everything, the initiative of elections is an offer presented by the Israeli Government for the first time. We must let this initiative interact in the interest of peace instead of anticipating that it will fail.

['Abd-al-Hayy] After the revelation of the nuclear and missile cooperation between Israel and Pretoria as well as the intentional leakage of advanced American technology to the Government of South Africa, thereby threatening the Arab, African, and Soviet national security as well as world security. Why, so far, have we not heard any decisive reaction from Washington and Moscow—a serious reaction without fear or courtesy which is a greater deterrent than condemnation and expressions of concern?

U.S. ambassador: The U.S. Government officially objected to this. And this objection was loud and clear in the recent meeting between President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. We must wait to see the Israeli reaction to this serious violation of the American laws regulating arms supplies.

['Abd-al-Hayy] The reaction really came in Shamir's statement: We have deals with the Pretoria government, and we must fulfill our commitments until these deals end.

U.S. Ambassador, laughing: This shows some change in the Israeli Government's stand. Let us wait to see what will happen next.

USSR ambassador: The nuclear and missile cooperation between Israel and Pretoria arouses the concern of the USSR and threatens its security and the security of the Arab and African countries, as well as the world. Israel has a technical base to manufacture nuclear weapons and according to UN reports has a limited store of these weapons. The missile cooperation between Israel and Pretoria means that Israel is developing methods to carry these weapons, and here lies the danger. This takes place at a time when the United States and the USSR are removing all their missiles of this type and are committed not to produce them any more. Moreover, this is happening at a time when the international community is moving toward the non-proliferation of the technology to produce the missiles that threaten world security.

['Abd-al-Hayy] Due to a shortage in the U.S. wheat crop resulting from this year's drought, the U.S. secretary of agriculture said he will cut wheat sales to foreign countries by perhaps as much as 3.5 million tonnes; that is, to such a limit that might affect wheat sales to the Soviet Union, China, and Egypt—the three main importers of U.S. wheat.

USSR ambassador: There are long-term agreements to sell U.S. wheat to the Soviet Union. As far as I know, the United States is committed to implement these agreements. Moreover, there are other markets for wheat. The Soviet agricultural policy is now actively seeking to attain self-sufficiency in the sphere of wheat in the shortest possible time.

U.S. ambassador: I have not heard about the decision of the secretary of agriculture to reduce wheat sales, nor do I think such a decision can be made by him. The United States is one of the main exporters of wheat and flour to the world market. This will continue to be a national U.S. policy that cannot be changed. We are particularly sensitive toward our responsibility of supplying Egypt with its needs of wheat and flour. We will continue to be regular suppliers of these needs in view of the distinguished friendship linking us with Egypt.

['Abd-al-Hayy] Egyptian public opinion asks: Why is Washington's stand toward the Egyptian debt crisis different from Moscow's? Moscow and the communist countries have adopted a lenient and tolerant stand toward the $3.5-billion military debt, whereas Washington has adopted a hard-line stand toward the $4.5-billion military debt, which has risen to about $10 billion as a result of interest accumulation. How do you explain that?

U.S. ambassador: During the past 7 years, the United States extended to Egypt $15 billion to $18 billion in grants. The annual economic aid of $1 billion and the military aid of $1.3 billion are nonrefundable grants. No other country can match us in what we are doing for Egypt.

As for debts, we are eager to reschedule them all. We did this once in 1987 and we are ready to sign another agreement to reschedule all Egyptian debts once Egypt rectifies its economic course to become more productive and limit spending just as every ordinary person does when drawing a balance between income and expenses. This is a U.S. policy that is aimed at strengthening the Egyptian economy and securing the future of generations.

USSR ambassador: We were eager to settle Egyptian debts according to terms favorable to Egypt and the Soviet Union. A comprehensive agreement to settle financial issues was signed in March 1987. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Blackmail' Against UN Criticized

JN0512203089 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 4 Dec 89 p 7

[Article by Mahmud al-Tuhami, chief editor and chairman of board of directors: "The United States Is Threatening To Cut Off the Fund"]

[Text] The United States has threatened to stop its financial aid to the United Nations if the General Assembly endorses an Arab request to consider Palestine an "observer" state at the United Nations.

It would seem that the world body known as "the United Nations" is virtually becoming one of the U.S. Administration's departments.

The U.S. Administration has persistently threatened to stop funding the United Nations and disown it if it does not learn good manners.

According to the U.S. conception, good manners means that the United Nations and all its bodies must obey the instructions of the United States and promptly attend to the wishes of masters in the White House, the Congress, and the State Department. It means the United Nations and all its bodies should refrain from doing anything that might disturb these masters.

This is not the first time the United Nations has been subjected to U.S. blackmail and threats to halt funds.

Nor is it the first time the United States interferes in the affairs of the United Nations. The United States has insisted on not granting PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations. It is true that the General Assembly moved to Geneva and listened to 'Arafat's address, in which he stressed his acceptance of peace in the Middle East, but the United States fulfilled its desire and prevented the United Nations from exercising its right to listen to one of its guests at its New York headquarters.

The issue is annoying and raises doubts about all U.S. behavior. And since this behavior entails a threat to all countries that have joint interests with the United States, it always places the friends of the United States in an unenviable position.

The United States is a superpower, and many nations have important interests with it; thus, this linkage of interests raises fears and suspicions.

The U.S. threat of cutting off financial aid to the "mother" world organization also entails a warning to any country: that it might be punished by a halt in financial aid or by directing international financing organizations to cause trouble to this country.

Efforts made by the United States to bring about peace in the Middle East and its attempts to bring soft pressure on Israel so that it may accept the option of peace do not lessen these fears.

When the United States prevents the PLO from talking to the United Nations, prevents the United Nations from upgrading the status of Palestine in the General Assembly, or opposes resolutions condemning Israel, it claims it does so for the sake of peace; it says it does not want to increase Israel's fears and obsessions, and that it wants the Israelis to feel secure so they will have no reason for intransigence.

We hear and know these excuses by heart, but regrettably they have lost their credibility despite the importance some diplomats attach to them.

It might have been possible to accept these justifications, had the United States managed to develop its policy toward Israel and to convince the Israeli Government of

the importance of making half or even a quarter of a step toward peace and stability—something that has not happened to date.

As long as the United States continues its policy of threats to the United Nations, and as long as Israel continues its intransigence against peace in the Middle East, we have to be mindful of the day when the United States thinks of cutting three-quarters of the bread eaten by the Egyptian people—and all other nations must think what to do to secure their basic needs now obtained from the United States.

'Arafat Stops Over in Cairo, Leaves for Tunis

NC0612063689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo tonight after stopping over for a few hours on his way from Baghdad to Tunis.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, met with the Palestinian president at the airport for 1 hour. The meeting was attended by PLO Executicve Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin; Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Al-Baz said that President 'Arafat will shortly visit Cairo to continue his consultations with President Husni Mubarak.

Information Minister Reports on Cabinet Meeting

NC0412221889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that, during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi this evening, the cabinet reviewed the foreign situation in general. It also discussed developments with regard to the Palestinian issue and the ongoing intensive consultations among the United States, Israeli, and the PLO designed to push the issue further forward on the path to dialogue, within the context of emphasizing the legitimate rights of the Palesinian people.

Al-Sharif added that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid presented a report to the cabinet on the results of the U.S.-Soviet summit and their positive effect on world peace, international cooperation, and regional issues. The report also dealt with the contact that took place between him and the U.S. secretary of state on the results of this summit.

The information minister added that the cabinet reviewed the recommendations made by the committee for regulating Egyptian labor abroad, which met met under Dr Sidqi recently, as well as the steps that have been taken with regard to the Egyptians working in Iraq, and the financial transfers the Iraqi government has made to pay the wages of the returning Egyptians.

Al-Sharif said that the cabinet decided that the Egypt Air company should operate additional flights between Cairo and Baghdad to enable those Egyptians who wish to return to do so. He added that the cabinet discussed a report on the economic and social performance in the state's various sectors during the second year of the current 5-year plan. He stated that the cabinet also agreed that a study of a project for the establishment of a new iron-and- steel complex be included in the projects of the public sector's organization for mineral industries.

Makramallah Interviewed on Economic Situation

NC0612104189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0913 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Amman, 6 Dec (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation, said the meetings of the Arab Economic Unity Council's 52d session, due to open in Amman later today, will discuss the council's budget and future programs. He noted that the council still possesses economic potential, manifested in the common market and Arab joint companies affiliated with the council.

In an interview with MENA correspondent in Amman, he pointed out that the establishment of the three Arab regional councils does not supersede the economic unity council's role. [passage omitted]

He disclosed that Egypt has rescheduled $5 billion of its debt through agreements with 17 countries. The dialogue between Egypt and the IMF is still in progress with a view to reaching an accord satisfactory to both parties.

He asserted that the solution to Egypt's economic problems depends on increased production and export by promoting the public and private sectors' production and by limiting imports.

Makramallah denied that the United States has halted its financial aid to Egypt, and noted that the U.S. Congress recently ratified the appropriation of $815 million in economic aid and $1.3 billion in military assistance to Egypt during 1990.

He also disclosed that economic agreements had been signed with the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, France, the EC, the Netherlands, Norway, and several Arab funds in the past to support the Egyptian economy.

Libyan Agricultural Delegation Arrives

NC0212175989 Cairo MENA in English 1658 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, Dec 2 (MENA)—Libyan delegation under Libyan Secretary General of the Agricultural, Vocational and Engineering Conference Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Ali arrived here this afternoon at the invitation of Chairman of the Agronomist Association Sa'id Hajras.

Hajras said that the talksp between the Egyptian and the Libyan sides will deal with the agricultural development

projects in both countries. He added that joint projects that could be carried out between the two countries will also be studied.

Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy premier and minister of agriculture, will receive the Libyan delegation later today.

Entry Denied to More Than 7,000 Israelis

JN0212111589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Nov 89 p 23

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian security sources have disclosed to AL-RA'Y AL-'Amm that more than 7,000 Israelis have been denied entry into Egyptian territory for security reasons, or for being officers and agents of the Shin Bet, the Mosad, and the military intelligence. The sources explained that Egyptian security authorities have entered the names of these Israelis on blacklists at Egyptian air and sea ports and at the crossing points in Tabah and Rafah. The sources added that Egypt is preventing some 5,000 Israelis from entering Egyptian territory for their involvement in crimes. These had been arrested in Egypt over the past years in connection with various offenses, especially theft, smuggling and taking drugs, forging and promoting forged currencies, fraud, and so forth. They were deported after their arrest.

The sources added that the Egyptian intelligence is looking for an Israeli named Yosi Cohen for security reasons. He is considered one of the most dangerous Mosad agents. Israeli intelligence at Rafah and Tabah crossing points is preventing every Israeli with the name of Yosi Cohen from travelling to Egypt so that he may not be arrested by Egyptian intelligence.

'Concern' at Possible Ethiopian Jerusalem Embassy

JN0512211489 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 3 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Egypt has expressed concern over reports that Ethiopia intends to open its embassy in Jerusalem, not in Tel Aviv. Egypt stressed to Ethiopia that the measure is out of line with UN and OAU resolutions, let alone its negative impact on Arab-Ethiopian relations.

Military Talks Held With Guatemalan General

NC0212123189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—A session of official military talks between Egypt and Guatemala was held this morning. Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, headed the Egyptian side and General Manuel Antonio, chief of the general staff of the Guatemalan defense forces [name and title as received], headed the Guatemalan side.

The talks dealt with ways to strengthen relations and expand military exchanges between the two countries. The two sides also reviewed the international political situation.

An official welcoming ceremony was held for Gen Antonio at the Defense Ministry's headquarters in Nasr city before the talks began. Gen Manuel laid a wreath at the memorial of the unknown soldier in Nasr city.

The Guatemalan chief of the general staff arrived in Cairo last night on a 3-day official visit to Cairo at the invitation of Lt Gen Abu-Shinaf.

Runway Bomb Being Developed; Armored Car Built

JN0212192189 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by Yasir Rizq]

[Excerpt] AL-AKHBAR has learned that a bomb that can destroy airfield runways is being developed at the "Qadir" complex of the Arab Industrialization Organization. Arab and African states have shown interest in acquiring this type of bomb, which may be installed in all types of Eastern and Western aircraft.

The bomb has proved highly destructive against runways, roads, concrete structures, and bridges.

Meanwhile, Engineer Colonel Husayn 'Abd-al-'Ali, board chairman of the Qadir Complex of Advanced Industries told AL-AKHBAR that a new type of the armored car "Fahd" has been produced and named "Fahd—Commander in Chief." It has been designed for use by force commanders to observe maneuvers and parades and to hold meetings in outlying areas. The car has been fitted with reinforced glass on the sides and front to afford the greatest possible amount of visibility. The car has also been equipped with an air-conditioned compartment insulated from the driver's cabin. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns From Kenya, Comments on Talks

EA0212181689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, returned to Khartoum from Nairobi this morning after attending the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] conference of eastern and southern African countries. Lt Gen 'Umar praised the welcome accorded the delegation by the government and people of Kenya and the attention given by President Moi to the Sudanese delegation. His excellency said the acceptance of Sudan as member of the PTA constituted a step towards rehabilitating Sudan's relations with African states.

Concerning the negotiations between the government and Garang's movement in Nairobi, his excellency said: I expect this round of talks will achieve great success. Here is the statement made by his excellency following his return to Khartoum:

[Begin al-Bashir recording] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. First of all I wish to praise the government and people of Kenya for the warm reception they accorded us and the great attention they gave the Sudanese delegation. God be praised, our meetings have been 100 percent successful. We were welcomed and accepted by all the PTA member states. Sudan was accepted as a member of the PTA. We regard this as a very big step towards rehabilitating Sudan's relations with the African states. I used the opportunity of my presence in Nairobi and the presence of a number of presidents to hold bilateral meetings with a number of them—Daniel arap Moi; Mugabe; Kaunda; Museveni Ali Hassan Mwinyi; and some other heads of delegations. We briefed them on the situation in Sudan. We found them fully cooperative and understanding of the situation in Sudan and the efforts of the Sudanese Government to attain peace and solve the problem of the war in the south.

We were very successful in the negotiations session by virtue of the proposals put forward by the Sudanese delegation representing the recommendations of the national dialogue conference. These were well received by a large number of observers and African heads of state. We have also learned that even the [rebel] movement and its leaders regarded these recommendations as solutions to many of the existing problems which led to the war [word indistinct]. [end recording]

Al-Bashir on Negotiating Southern Sudan Solution

JN0312103889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Doha, 3 Dec (WAKH)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], has reiterated that conducting negotiations is the way to resolve the southern Sudan problem. He stressed that eliminating the rebellion once and for all is impossible due to the guerrilla warfare tactics pursued by the rebels.

In a statement to the Qatari weekly AKHBAR AL-USBU' published today, Lt Gen al-Bashir denied that the Sudanese Government intends to use toxic gases and chemical weapons in the war in southern Sudan, pointing out that there are citizens living in the areas which are under John Garang's control. He also indicated his eagerness to end this futile and useless war.

As for economic reform, the NSRCC chairman affirmed that increasing production is the way out of the current economic crisis in Sudan, as this would increase exports and reduce imports. He also said that this would also restore the exchange value of the Sudanese pound to its previous status. He indicated that the Sudanese Government is drawing up investment plans for Sudanese expatriates so that they can invest their money in the country. He added that the government will shortly draw up a comprehensive investment plan for Arab and foreign investors.

SPLA Delegate Addresses Conference in Kenya

EA0212203589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The peace conference between the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] and the junta delegation started yesterday morning at 0900 [0600 GMT] in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. [passage omitted] Here is the full text of the speech of the leader of the SPLM/SPLA delegation to the talks:

Your Excellency, President Jimmy Carter, former president of the U.S.; Honorable Joseph Muliro, the Kenyan representative to the opening session; Leader of the government delegation; ladies and gentlemen of the press: The SPLM/SPLA delegation has come to Nairobi with the hope that at long last a basis will be laid for the realization of a just and therefore permanent peace in our war-ravaged country. It has always been the SPLA's belief that our conflict, like all military conflicts, can only be permanently resolved politically, since such conflicts are, after all, expressions of political conflicts. It is in this belief that our movement has worked tirelessly in the search for a political solution to the fundamental problems of the Sudan.

As you all know, the SPLM has always been in the forefront in pursuit of a genuine peace. The movement entered into serious and well-meaning political discussions with virtually all of Sudan's political forces, including the very small minority represented by the fundamentalist National Islamic Front [NIF], whose aspirations are contrary to those of the vast majority of Sudanese. With the exception of this minority, all Sudanese agreed on what has been widely accepted as the best means through which a new Sudan of justice, equality, democracy, freedom, and human rights can and should be created.

The Koka Dam Declaration: it was on the Koka Dam Declaration that the now world-famous SPLM/SPLA-DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] peace initiative of November 1988 was based, and I can say without a shadow of doubt that if it had not been for the junta's intervention of 30th June 1989, the Sudan would have entered a period of peace and stability. Indeed, it has been said that the junta derailed the peace process by choosing to reject the basis for peace on which most Sudanese had agreed.

We have always been committed and we remain committed now as ever to the creation of a united Sudan of peace, justice, equality, and brotherhood, where human rights are cherished and race and religion do not serve to divide our people, a Sudan in which religion is the

individual's moral and personal law is a matter between him and his God. [sentence as heard] This is because we believe that religion cannot play a positive role in any state's legislation. Besides, we trust that, being almighty, God is more than able to enforce his own laws without the assistance of human agencies like the police and the courts.

We hope that the government delegation has come with serious intentions to see that a genuine basis is laid for the realization of peace in our country and that they recognize the absolute necessity for all political forces in the Sudan to participate in the pursuit for peace. A lasting peace cannot be worked out by a few Sudanese, but can only result from the involvement of all political forces in the peace process. Of course, divergent Sudanese political groups have met and discussed freely on numerous occasions, and it is this that makes us believe that no matter how great the risk, we Sudanese will always willingly talk to each other without need for external pressure or persuasion.

In our meeting of August 1989 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, we presented to the government delegation a peace program which we believe provides the best basis for a lasting peace in the Sudan. We agreed to meet again at a time and place to be agreed upon by both sides. We further agreed on a direct line of contact between us to facilitate the peace process. The government side was to provide us with their reply to the questions we raised in our peace program which you can find in the separate documents whose copies are freely available here. It is our hope that they have given our proposals the serious considerations they deserve, and that today will be a milestone in pursuit of peace.

However, there were a number of unfortunate developments from the government side which have imposed further unnecessary sufferings on our already battered people, specifically the inexplicable cancellation of relief operations. The SPLM/SPLA had agreed with the government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on certain specific corridors of tranquillity to be used by Operation Lifeline Sudan, the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] and other non-governmental organizations in order that food could reach the starving people of the Sudan. This was in no way tied to the issue of cease-fire. The SPLM/SPLA will respect that agreement regardless of the military situation outside these corridors. Use of food as a weapon is a most uncivilized and deplorable military strategy. We call upon all governments, organizations, and people of goodwill to bring pressure to bear on the Khartoum junta to lift this unfortunte relief embargo.

Although it is true that we Sudanese can talk to each other without need of external pressure even at the worst of times, it is nevertheless true that this meeting would not be taking place today had it not been for one known for his love of mankind and for his concern for the suffering peoples of Africa in general and Sudan in particular—President Jimmy Carter of the U.S.A. The world would be a far better place if there were many like him. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to him for his most worthwhile efforts, and hope that these efforts will bear fruit.

Last, but by no means least, I would like on behalf of the SPLM/SPLA and all the peace-loving Sudanese people to thank His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, and through him the government and people of the Republic of Kenya for the facilities and hospitality being so generously accorded to me and my delegation. President Moi has spared no effort to see that we Sudanese enjoy peace such as prevails in Kenya, and it is my hope that these endeavors will be amply rewarded.

Signed: Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the SPLM/SPLA Political Military High Command and leader of the delegation. [passage omitted]

Kassiano Issues Report on U.S., Canada Visit

EA0312191489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Report from Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member, on his recent visit to the U.S. and Canada—recorded]

[Text] Of course, it was an official visit to the U.S. and Canada. We spent a night in Paris and on the second day we arrived in America. We continued our trip to Canada, and there we held a meeting with the Sudanese community at the ambassador's house; the meeting was very successful. We informed them of all the steps taken by the government since it seized power, including the conference held in Khartoum in September aimed at tackling all the problems in the Sudan, especially the problem in the south. We explained to them all the recommendations of the conference, held discussions with them, listened to their questions, and answered them.

Later, as part of our program, we met the minister for foreign affairs and handed her a letter from the chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, leader of the National Salvation Revolution. We fully briefed her on the peace issue in the south and all the government's steps towards peace. We also outlined the problems in the country, such as relief for those affected in the national capital, Khartoum. Of course, they are ready to offer us anything if there is a cease-fire soon.

Later we met a minister responsible for African affairs, to whom we gave a complete clarification. We also presented them with figures on the loss of life in the Sudan; for example, 7,000,000 wild animals have been killed in the southern region. The annual expenditure on that problem is 2,400,000. [sentence as heard] We also have a daily expenditure of 11,000,000 [currency not specified]. Two thousand five hundred people have died in the war: 4,500 of our martyrs in the people's armed

forces; 27,700 SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] losses, and approximately 293,000 people have died of hunger and diseases in the bush inside or outside the Sudan [all figures as heard].

There are also an estimated 977 primary schools, of which 174 are operating. [Words indistinct] we had 148 intermediate school in the south. Now there are only 51 operating. We had 35 higher secondary schools. Now only 14 are operating. Of the 8 teachers' schools, only 4 are operating. Therefore, there is great damage in [word indistinct] in the south, and this war must come to an end. The south has lost everything.

Later we met the members of the Canadian Parliament and we also fully enlightened them on all the government's steps and assured them that we had sent a delegation to Nairobi so as to achieve peace. After that, we left Canada and arrived in Washington. In Washington, we held a similar meeting with the Sudanese community; the meeting was good.

Afterwards, we met the secretary of state, to whom we conveyed a letter from the chairman, and we gave him a complete explanation of all the problems taking place in Sudan and how serious the government is in exerting its solve this war.

Later, we visited the Pentagon, which is the American military general headquarters, and we enlightened them on the security situation in the Sudan. We held discussions on spare parts for vehicles and aircraft, and even on some vehicles which were supposed to be sent, but were halted in accordance with the American Government's conditions. There was the conviction on this issue that they must offer assistance, so that we can save the country from all these problems.

Later we met the American policymakers, the Congressmen, and we fully enlightened them, and there were some things that they did not know. We tried to give them this information in a correct way. They were very grateful. There was an agreement to help the Sudan with relief. We [words indistinct] the things needed in the Sudan, and we began with the refugees around Khartoum, of whom there are about 3,500,000, and we also told them about the areas in the south. We told them all how get these things to the people there. They were very ready and God willing, they will soon start sending relief to the affected areas here in the Sudan, we told them that we have laws in the country and we welcome anyone bringing us any assistance, but they should respect all the laws in the country to avoid any misunderstanding between the government and those bringing the relief.

Later we gave a detailed lecture at the Brookings Institute, which is one of the great universities where John Garang had given a lecture on all the problems. We conveyed the real picture and explained all the issues [words indistinct] and they were convinced of all [words indistinct] that they offered us in this lecture. I am sure that the visit was very successful.

RCC Member Kassiano Receives PRC Ambassador

AB0312210289 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Brigadier PSC [passed staff college] Dominic Kassiano met this morning at the Republican Palace his excellency the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Sudan.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and means of promoting them in various fields. Brigadier Kassiano explored the government's efforts to achieve peace, as well as the outcome of the national dialogue conference.

Meanwhile, the Chinese ambassador expressed his government's support to the efforts exerted by the Sudanese Government. He requested the Sudanese Government to send a peace delegation to China to inform them on the recommendations of the national dialogue conference.

Embassy in Djibouti, Consulate in Iraq To Open

EA0412102889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Council of Ministers passed a draft law ratifying Sudan's entry into the international agreement against racial discrimination in sports, which was tabled by the minister of foreign affairs.

It also agreed to reopen the Sudanese Embassy in Djibouti, and to open a Sudanese consulate in the Iraqi city of (?Basra).

Commentary: Sudan Will Not Accept Garang's Rule

EA2912140189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Nov 89

[From the "Political commentary"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: You, the valiant people of Sudan: Yes to the optimism which precedes the negotiations with the rebels at the beginning of next month. The wings of imagination fly high, raising hope to the heavens to escape constriction in the bosom.

The fact is that the revolution basically came for peace, it will not turn its back on or deviate from this course. However, how the revolution sees peace is not as others see it. It is a peace under which the creed will be restored and under which the only rule will be the rule of God, under which justice will prevail, people will work, the flag of honor will be imposed, and the people will put their shoulders to the wheel. It will be a peace to which the rebels will be pleased to return without their booty and become just like all the other citizens. [passage omitted]

When that peace comes, Garang wil
manifesto just as the socialists in burn the movement's
burned the coffin of socialism, whi Eastern Europe have
so, would have misled them anch, had they not done
afforded them anything but an imd would never have
law and a denial of blessings. It wounoral life, an immoral
disease of drinking and caused thd have led them to the
extreme punishment. If Garang dem to taste the most
and ambition of ruling Sudan byscards his false belief
Sudan's faith and the pillars of its sthe gun, demolishing
anew so that its features become Afrociety and of testing it
when he gives up all the pledges he ican like Garang's, and
the first years of the rebellion [wornade to his rebels since
ds indistinct].

At the time the May [Numayr
Garang to peace, offering him in e] government called
of the southern region and thechange to be the ruler
president of the republic, he cor first deputy of the
turned his back and continued to temptuously refused,
of May and [words indistinct] fight until the demise
transitional government. [passage was inherited by the
omitted]

He continued to fight and nobody
Then the parties came. The rebellknows why he fought.
them. The rebellion infiltrated thion continued against
doors of division and the windowse parties through the
traps like a spider's web. He br of intrigue. He set his
house [word indistinct] and the rerought into his feeble
was followed by children and sinnants of the flock. He
omitted] lly old men. [passage

He told his rebels he rejected all o
by the Khartoum government, beoffers of power-sharing
repetition of Anyanya 1 or to be ause he did not want a
deputy. Being a ruler of a provincanyone's underling or
not satisfy him. He wants to gove or a minister would
alone. If not, how could he realizeern Sudan by himself
appointed him and supported hi the goal of those who
armament with which to punish Sm with every kind of
[word indistinct] but it is Zionism udan? It is practically
the idea of liberating Sudan. Twhich inspired in him
weary, tired and sinful. He shoul oday Garang stands
sin of killing thousands of the sders the burden of the
omitted] ns of Sudan. [passage

Sudan will never accept Garang as its ruler whatever the vicissitudes of the times. The military victory Garang hopes to win over the Armed Forces is not on the horizon. Even the withdrawals of the forces from some positions were due to military criteria and natural difficulties. So, in the end, the claim of liberation is false. The new state of Sudan is drawn upon the face of the sea of difficulties in which Garang is swimming. [passage omitted]

Garang Receives Egyptian Message on Peace Talks

EA3012092289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Egypt has declared that it welcomes the peace negotiations in Nairobi between the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] and the military junta in Khartoum, in a letter addressed to the commander in chief.

The text of the letter is as follows: Brother Colonel John Garang de Mabior, greetings: I send you this letter to mark the agreement to hold a round of negotiations on peace, in Nairobi on 1 December 1989. I hope that these negotiations succeed totally and that they result in a nationwide peace in Sudan. This is the aim Egypt is striving to achieve, and you can be sure of that. I would also like to assure you of Egypt's steadfast course in this direction, from which it has never deviated. I stress that Egypt's peace course is based on an accord between the two sides, and the upholding of their respective interests.

We have every hope that you and your brothers will create a calm atmosphere to ensure the success of this round of negotiations and subsequent rounds. This is something we have also drawn the attention of the other side to, so as to arrive at a peace which will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of all the Sudanese throughout Sudan.

Signed: Minister Amin Nimr [minister's post not further identified].

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Confers With U.S. Official

JN0612161489 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, Dec 6 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah conferred here today with the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Edward Gnehm, currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting discussed bilateral issues of concern to the two countries and current issues in the Arab and inernational arenas.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Charles Hosler.

Kuwait

Oil Minister Orders Cut in Crude Production

LD0512040289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1744 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA)—Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi has ordered a cut in the country's crude oil production from 1.85 million barrels a day to 1.5 million barrels a day for the first six months of 1990, announced assistant executive of the managing director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation 'Abdallah al-Rumi.

Defense Minister Meets Iranian Ambassador

LD0412142389 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec. 4, IRNA—Ways of strengthening cooperation among the Persian Gulf states in a bid to ease the regional tension were discussed in a meeting here Monday [4 December] between Iranian Ambassador Hoseyn Saldeqi and Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah.

Sadeqi called on the Muslim states of the region to unite and eliminate any spirit of aggression. "We believe that the security of the region can be preserved through self-reliance and without needing foreign intervention."

The Kuwaiti defence minister, too, reaffirmed that the foreign powers should not be allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of the region.

Kuwait To Take Part in Euro-Arab Dialogue

LD0212173989 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has said that Kuwait will participate in the proceedings of the Euro-Arab dialogue, which is scheduled for Paris later this month.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told KUNA that the dialogue between the two sides will begin in the French capital on 22 December, and will be held at the level of foreign ministers. It will be preceded by a meeting of experts a day earlier.

Oman

Sudan's Al-Bashir Visits Muscat 5-6 Dec

JN0512162289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, arrived in the country today on a 2-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id was at the head of those who received the Sudanese leader when he landed at the sultan's private airport. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

JN0612144289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, has praised His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id's stands toward Sudan. He said that his majesty takes no step without being sure of it.

The Lieutenant General affirmed in a news conference he held today in conclusion of his official visit to the Sultanate that his majesty the sultan's early support and strong words for Sudan gave a good image and excellent impression of the revolution in Sudan everywhere, especially in the West.

He praised his visit to the Sultanate. He said it has been one of the most successful visits he has had recently. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed in his introductory speech of the conference his sincerest thanks for his majesty the sultan for all the support and aid he presented to Sudan and his backing of its cause.

Al-Bashir Leaves Oman

JN0612150789 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, left the country this afternoon after a 2-day official visit. He was accorded an official sendoff. At the head of the sendoff delegation was His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id. [passage omitted]

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives in Muscat 29 Nov

JN3011090889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Muscat, 29 Nov (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation arrived in Muscat tonight on a short visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Iranian minister said he carries a message to Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said he will hold talks with Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, on bilateral ties, issues of common concern, and developments in the Gulf.

'Abdallah Meets Velayati

LD0112232589 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah said on Thursday that the 1975 accord has solved the issue of sovereignty over the Arvand River and that nobody could expect Iran to give up its rights.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who arrived in Muscat from Aden earlier today.

Al-Alawi, saying that Resolution 598 could settle all war-related issues, noted there was a concensus among all regional countries for its implementation.

Velayati made it clear 'the 1975 accord is still the main basis for determining border with Iraq, and is in no way alterable.'

He castigated Baghdad's rejection of a proposal made by the U.N. chief's especial envoy Jan Eliasson during his recent shuttle between Tehran and Baghdad, that Article 7 of the resolution concerning the reconstruction of the two countries be implemented.

In an effort to break the deadlocked peace talks, the Islamic Republic proposed 'on humanitarian grounds' the exchange of POWs simultaneously with withdrawal of Iraqi troops, Velayati specified.

He expressed regret over Baghdad's rejection of the proposal despite its being warmly welcomed by international circles.

Among other topics discussed with the Omani official were the latest developments in the Persian Gulf including cooperation among littoral states.

French Defense Minister Arrives in Muscat 30 Nov

JN3011094089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Muscat, 30 Nov (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Muscat today on a visit of several days to the Sultanate of Oman at the invitation of Fahar Ibn-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense.

He was received by Fahar Ibn-Taymur, Defense Ministry Secretary General Sayf Ibn-Hamad al-Battashi, and the French ambassador in Muscat.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Chevenement

JN3011163089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] His Highness Fahar Ibn-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for Defense and Security Affairs, received in his office at the Bayt al-Falaj military camp this morning His Excellency Jean-Pierre Chevenement, defense minister of the friendly French Republic. During the meeting, bilateral relations were reviewed and issues of common concern were discussed. The meeting was attended on the Omani side by His Excellency Sayf Ibn-Hamad al-Battashi, secretary general of the Defense Ministry, and a number of senior officers of the Sultan's Armed Forces; and on the French side by his excellency the French ambassador to the Sultanate and members the accompanying delegation. Gifts were exchanged at the conclusion of the meeting.

His excellency the French minister and the accompanying delegation also paid a visit this morning to the Sultan's Armed Forces Museum at the Bayt al-Falaj military camp. His Excellency was received by Brigadier General Yusuf Ibn-Khalfan Al Bu-Sa'idi, head of the Moral Guidance and Public Relations Department at the Sultan's Armed Forces' Chief of Staff's office of the Defense Ministry. His excellency saw the contents of the Sultan's Armed Forces military museum in the various stages of military history, both from the glorious and the blessed present. His excellency and the visitors were briefed on the facilities and the various items on display.

PDRY

Delegation Returns From Unity Talks With North

EA2912213089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabicdd

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and his delegation returned to Aden this afternoon from the northern part of the homeland, following a visit which lasted several days.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah said that during his visit to the northern part of the homeland he carried two messages from brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party YSP Central Committee, and Haydar Abubakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to their Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the [Yemen Arab] republic, the commander

in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland.

He said that he met Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and during the meeting there was an exchange of views. They discussed the work of the leadership in the southern part of the homeland. He pointed out that he found great understanding from Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and from the brother officials of the northern part of the homeland.

Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah said that among the most important questions discussed by the two parties and the officials was the Yemeni national issues. As is well-known and as he has announced before, two schemes have been put forward for discussion. Both were discussed extensively by the officials of the two parts of the homeland. He added: We can say that we have covered very vast areas. The visit achieved good and fruitful results. Only insignificant matters remain. He pointed out that the visit of Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the southern part of the homeland and the meetings scheduled for the leaders of the two parts would also be fruitful and would have positive results.

He said: we are very keen for Yemeni unity to be achieved because it is the hope of our Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland. It will be a unity which will take into consideration all circumstances. It will be a unity which is practical and realistic. It will be a transitional unity. The measures under consideration, and which we shall agree on and adopt, will be our first and last task. The fundamental task is full Yemeni unity.

Concerning the two schemes in the Yemeni arena, Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah said it was essential that there be points of view and opinions, but we can say that the scheme we shall adopt in Yemen and agree on will be a scheme which can represent common denominators linking the two parts of the homeland and are acceptable at this stage. It is premature ot talk about the two schemes.

He pointed out that final decisions were taken on many issues. The points of view were very close. What remains now is a unified and joint scheme which could become the sole scheme on which agreement should be reached. Our people should then be informed about it.

YAR Leaders Visit, Attend Military Parade

EA0112112589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpts] A parade was held this afternoon at the Martyr al-Hubayshi Stadium to celebrate the 22d anniversary of the glorious national independence and the historic unionist meeting. Present were Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee; Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the [Yemen Arab] Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nuan, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

The event began with a carnival parade in which token contingents from military and security institutions, mass and creative organizations, and large crowds from various sectors of our people participated.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid then made a speech warmly welcoming brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, and the brother leaders of the northern part of the beloved homeland for their participation in the celebrations attending the 22d anniversary of national independence and the accomplishment of the new specific unificatory steps which will add another storey to the edifice of unification. He also congratulated our Yemeni masses in the homeland and abroad on this occasion. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary general affirmed in his address that the YSP had concluded that the correct way of managing society guiding its development and effecting its progressive transformation was primarily dependent on the party's ability to embody true democratic practices within its own internal framework and within those of the (?state) and society, while striving to proliferate democracy and make it one of the facts of our daily life. He stressed that our party, taking full historic responsibility, had made available to all the patriotic and democratic forces the option of participation and called on them to perform growin? roles in political, economic, social and cultural life. He explained that the YSP was fully prepared to establish and perform its role in political and social alliances so as to accomplish national and social tasks of profoundly historic dimensions and objecties.

He referred to the successes achieved by unificatory action and the great headway made by the leaderships of the two parts in terms of dialogue and agreement based on the historical fact that the Yemeni people are one and that the Yemeni land is one. He said: The road to unity begins from the expansion of the commonalities of the two parts, progressing towards unification by means of studied concrete steps and embarking on the implementation of a transitional federal stage leading to the remolding of internal conditions in the two parts on unified bases and the establishment of unified official and popular apparatuses by way of gradually merging identical aparatuses.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said he was pleased with the progressively growing unionist relations between the two parts. He stressed the need for perseverance with the brother leaders of the northern part of the homeland,

headed by Brother Col 'Ali Abdallah Salih, toward accelerating unificatory steps and continuing the march on the same correct, practical and realistic path towards the realization of the true interests of our people and our homeland and leading to their unity, honor, progress, and dignity.

PDRY Party Head, YAR Leader Meet

EA0112142689 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpt] A brotherly meeting was held at noon today between Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the [Yemen Arab] Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, in the meeting hall at the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council.

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid warmly welcomed his brother, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and his delegation. He emphasized in his speech that the visit coincided with our Yemeni people's celebrations of the 22d anniversary of national independence, and was taking place after the two political leaderships in the two parts had covered earnest steps along the road of joint unionist work based on realistic political thought and democratic brotherly dialogue.

They had enabled important headway to be made in this sphere, represented by the freedom of the citizens' movement between the two parts, and they had opened up the way for earnest unionist steps to be carried out during a transitional period which will strive to reinforce the bridges of confidence and build components of the united state.

The brother secretary general said: We can today start with confidence in national work on the basis of a common understanding of the necessity of accomplishing the tasks of the transitional federal stage which we are inaugurating by this historic meeting of Aden, a meeting which we desire to be based on the positive assets of all the previous unionist agreements, and not to be a repetition of them but rather a creative development of their intention and a new starting point towards accomplishing wider and deeper steps—a measure that establishes a specific stage in which official and popular efforts are made towards achieving total unity.

Brother al-Bid affirmed that circumstances have matured for setting up an official mechanism based on a popular mechanism to be in charge of accomplishing the tasks of the transitional stage as a sign of the establishment of total unity and the proclamation of a democratic Yemeni state on the entire national soil.

He explained that in setting up the two mechanisms the importance lay in an organized participation of the masses in unionist work in addition to that by the two leaderships and the official organs in the two parts, making the issue of Yemeni unity a general national affair which concerns all the sons of@Yemen and falls in the sphere of their attention and daily activities.

The brother secretary general pointed out that the involvement of the masses and their active nationalist forces, which believe in the aims and principles of the September and October Revolutions and give their loyalty to the supreme interests of the Yemeni homeland in land and people, will give the unionist work a great momentum and greater steadiness.

He affirmed that it was possible to achieve this by paving the way for more democratic practices and for the recognition of more political and human rights for Yemenis and for acceptance in involving those who agreed and disagreed with regard to political, economic, social and cultural affairs on the basis of a peaceful national work and adherence to the principles and aims of the September and October Revolutions and their achievements, and on the basis of a consensus and a conviction that Yemen is vast and has room for all its sons and can combine their diversity within the framework of its unity, and on the basis of the recognition of the facts of the age which confirm that democracy is a human need just as much as it is pressing necessity for the progress of peoples and their material and cultural prosperity.

Just as it seeks justice and respect for the humanity of man, it also guarantees the right of people to form their political and trade union parties [as heard] and to expres? their opinions and ideas, and it guarantees their right to open disagreement and criticism and to participate in making decisions that are connected with their homeland and their life, and, with the guarantee of their human rights and respect for their humanity and their dignity, it makes them stand as equals like the teeth of a comb and to enjoy equal rights and to have equal obligations.

During the meeting, Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih extended warm congratulations to the political leadership of the Yemeni people on this national occasion which is dear to the heart of every Yemeni, and on the occasion of the departure of the last of the British colonialist soldiers. He expressed his happiness at meeting the brothers in the political leadership of the southern part of the homeland in order to complete constructive dialogue on restoring the unity of the homeland in land and people.

He pointed out that the basic aim is the achievement of Yemeni unity. He affirmed that the two political leaderships have in front of them numerous options and said if we achieve together with our brothers led by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the Political Bureau, great unionist steps, which meet a response from the sons of our people, then we can today strive for understanding. The thing we agree upon implement and the thing we do not agree on, we postpone, and that is through democratic, brotherly dialogue. [passage omitted]

Leaders Open PRC-Built Road

EA0112112989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] This afternoon Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People Congress in the YAR, inagurated the Aden beltway project in Goldmohur

The beltway stretches from Crater Pass to al-Rawdah, passing through a 462-meter tunnel, and from there to the Golden Beach area. It has a total length of 5.48 km. The Aden beltway is an important project because it will help develop the road network in the areas it passes through. It will make it possible to reach the Golden Beach area directly, without passing through al- Tawwahi, and in less time. It will also ease congestion on the main street of al-Mu'alla. It will play a fundamental role in regulating haphazard building activity in the neighboring areas.

The completed work is worth about 3,435,586 dinars. The amount contracted for was about 3,650,000 dinars. The project was carried out by the Chinese Tianjin International Economic and Technical Corporation.

North Yemen President Departs

EA0212124889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the [Yemen Arab] Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, and his delegation left Aden by road this morning after a 3-day visit to the southern part of the homeland during which he joined our Yemeni masses in their celebrations to mark the 22d anniversary of national independence and during which the Aden agreement on unification was signed. [passage omitted]

In a press statement made in the Karish area, Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stressed that everying agreed on would instantly be subjected to practical implementation in all its aspects. He said the actual border points of the past are now no longer strictly observed. He said they are like the traditional borders existing within the republic's province, both north and south. He emphasized that once the upcoming practical steps have been taken, these border points will automatically vanish. He called on the brothers of the interior ministries in the two parts to implement everything agreed on and to remove everything obstructing the free movement of citizens between the two parts.

Commenting on the amalgamation of some projects, he said: We are proceeding towards amalgamating and unifying the projects, and we believe that the transitional period is a suitable one for the amalgamation of some institutions, bodies, and unions as a step toward total amalgamation.

Replying to questions from the press, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid emphasized that there should be no restrictions on visits and meetings and that communications between the officials of the two should continue with a view to preparing an atmosphere conducive to the implementation of the agreement signed and by which we responded to and achieved the aspirations and ambitions of our people. He added that a great responsibility to translate the agreement into a practical reality is now vested in us.

Industry Minister Meets U.S. Congress Delegation

JN0512165089 Baghdad INA in English 1628 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 5, INA—Mr Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met here today with a delegation from the U.S Congress Foreign Relations Committee, now on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, the Iraqi minister reviewed to the guests the ministry's future plans for industrializing Iraq and recent rules and regulations issued to support the private industrial sector.

Sudanese RCC Member Arrives 5 Dec on 2-Day Visit

JN0512211389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Staff Colonel Salah-al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Kararah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation in Sudan, and his delegation arrived in Baghdad this evening on a 2-day visit to the country. He was received at the airport by Revolution Command Council Member Sa'dun Shakir and the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives for Baghdad Fair

JN0512165289 Baghdad INA in English 1625 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 5, INA—A Kuwaiti trade delegation led by Minister of Trade and Industry Faysal al-Khalid arrived in Baghdad today to attend activities of the Kuwaiti trade week opening at Baghdad International Fair tomorrow.

Speaking to INA on arrival, the Kuwaiti minister said the week is after [as received] acquainting the Iraqi public with the development achieved by the Kuwaiti industrial products and that he would conduct talks with Iraqi officials on prospects of further promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The minister is accompanied by a delegation representing investment and contracting companies and several public transport, trade and industrial establishments.

Deputy Premier on Foreign Labor, Other Issues

JN0312083289 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 1 Dec 89 p 8

[By Sana' al-Sa'id]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi has said that his country is hard up for cash liquidity, calling it a temporary hardship that could last 4 years. He indicated that, with only a small portion of the agricultural land exploited, Iraq's resources have not been exhausted. Iraq's oil potential holds out the long-term promise of wide eonomic horizons. The Iraqi official emphasized that it is too early to pass judgment on Arab investments made in Iraq since the cease-fire, noting that Arab investments in Iraq began only recently.

On Iraq's foreign debts, estimated by financial circles at between $65 and $85 billion, Hammadi said the figures are far from accurate. He cited the failure as yet to sign a peace treaty with Iran as the reason for not divulging the true figure. He said other countries have agreed to do business with us and accommodate our debt rescheduling proposals.

The Iraqi official denied that there is reluctance in Iraq to invest in heavy industry. Such industry is state-owned and financed through loans or cash. The risk is carried by Iraq rather than the contractor, he explained.

The halt of the war, he said, has led to a cutback in the Armed Forces, thus necessitating a drop in remittances of non-Iraqi labor without their having to be made redundant. The fall in remittances has led many non-Iraqi workers to quit their jobs, with some of them seeking employment in other countries.

Sa'dun Hammadi stressed that Egyptian workers are welcome in Iraq. He indicated that the reduced hard currency remittances do not mean that Iraq is cutting back on labor.

He described Iraq's industrial program and its agricultural and transport sectors as dynamic, as called for by a balanced economy. Hammadi pointed out that the industrial sector in the military field is an extensive and successful program and that it has saved Iraq much needed hard currency.

The deputy prime minister dismissed a suggestion that the Arab Cooperation Council is now a liability for Iraq. The long-term interests of all concerned are served by common Arab action, said Hammadi. In the short run, though, we reckon that each country will have to make sacrifices in the interest of the long haul, and we do not balk at such sacrifice.

Sa'dun Hammadi concluded his statements to AL-MUSAWWAR by emphasizing that all Iraq's oil reserves have been discovered.

Correction to Deputy Premier on Egyptian Labor

JN0512192889

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Deputy Premier on Egyptian Labor, Remittances," published in the 5 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 23:

Column one, make sourceline read: ...Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Dec... (correcting name of paper to "AL-AKHBAR," not "AL-AHRAR").

Shamir Says 'No Decision' on Tripartite Meeting

TA0512182989 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Eli Nisan in Jerusalem on 5 December; interview conducted in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles, processed from Hebrew—recorded]

[Text] [Nisan] Mr Prime Minister, the Egyptians have announced that they have delivered their response to the United States. Judging from their answer, can we infer that the peace process has a chance of moving forward in our region?

[Shamir] We have not received such an answer from the United States. We, of course, desire the process to move forward, because after all, we are talking about the implementation of our own initiative. As a result of the constantly proliferating reports, one can get the impression that we are under some kind of pressure from foreign parties that want to dictate our actions to us. This is not true. We are talking about our initiative, our decision, that external parties are trying—or should be trying—to help us implement. That is all.

[Nisan] Sir, did Kelly bring any special message from the U.S. President?

[Shamir] No, he brought no special message. That was not his job. His mission was to supply us with additional details on the summit meeting between the U.S. and Soviet presidents, and this was what he did.

[Nisan] There is talk of a forthcoming tripartite meeting between the Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. foreign ministers. Would it be realistic to expect this meeting to take place in the coming days?

[Shamir] So far no decision has been made on the date of such a meeting. It is planned. It will take place after some kind of agreement is reached between the parties that would have to participate in this meeting. Then a ministerial session will be held in which the agenda of the meeting and the other details will finally be decided.

[Nisan] Did Kelly's briefing today hold any intimation of an upcoming resumption of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union?

[Shamir] No, he said very little about this. This issue was also hardly discussed in the summit. President Bush mentioned the subject. Maybe I am to blame because when I spoke on the telephone with the U.S. President and he asked me if I had any special issues I would like him to raise in his meeting with Gorbachev, I told him that perhaps he could tell Gorbachev it is time to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. He promised me he would raise the issue, and he did.

Kelly Briefs Shamir, Arens, Peres on Malta

TA0512122489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Excerpts] John Kelly, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, held separate meetings in Jerusalem this morning with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. He briefed them on the Bush-Gorbachev talks in Malta. [passage omitted]

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports on Kelly's three meetings in Jerusalem:

The first meeting, held with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, took place over breakfast at the Hilton. The message sent from Malta to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem via Washington was: Gorbachev's Soviet Union wants to occupy a place in the Middle East peace process.

[Begin Arens recording] They reported that Mr Gorbachev, who knows that a unique opportunity to promote the peace process has now arisen, showed interest in the peace process and expressed personal willingness to contribute whatever he can to that end. [end recording]

Later, Kelly rushed to the Prime Minister's Office.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] He gave a briefing whose main point was the statement that the summit was successful and that, first and foremost, it was a success for the United States. He also said that it heralds more success in the next summit in June.

[Voice of Israel correspondent Dalya Ya'iri] What were the questions you posed?

[Shamir] Well, we asked many questions, but the Middle East problems were hardly discussed at the summit. Thus, the summit achieved nothing new on the Middle East issue.

[Ya'iri] Can the U.S.-USSR rapprochement create pressure on us to reach a quick solution?

[Shamir] I realize that some people here crave pressure, but I am not one of them. I do not think there will be any pressure. Pressuring allies is not the U.S. way. They can try to convince, which is legitimate, but I will repeat again: Any progress or development in this region depends mainly on ourselves, not on our friends. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 5 December, in a similar report by political correspondent Arye Golan on Kelly's meeting with Shamir, adds: "Mr Shamir asked Under Secretary Kelly whether the United States had explicitly told Syria that it objects to the use of force in Lebanon. Kelly replied that this was indeed what senior U.S. echelons had pointed out to Syria."]

From the Prime Minister's Office to the Treasury: The third encounter was with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Gorbachev asked Bush, said Kelly, what should be done on the subject of the political process in the Middle East. He answered his own question by saying: We should make progress, particularly in view of the possibilities now open to the region. Bush's answer: The United States believes that the Egyptians and the Palestinians are indeed ready to march forward. Gorbachev welcomed the U.S.-PLO dialogue and expressed the desire and willingness to be a more active partner in the political process. It will have a more beneficial impact on the progress, assured the Soviets in Malta, according to John Kelly's report.

Minister Peres told Under Secretary Kelly that the current political situation makes it possible to take a serious step forward, and this option must not be missed. Both sides—the Palestinians and the Israelis—need peace and must launch a dialogue. None of the parties will achieve their goals by playing chess against themselves, said Shim'on Peres.

After this meeting, Kelly hurried to a meeting with Defense Minister Rabin in Tel Aviv. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 5 December adds: "In today's meeting with Defense Minister Rabin, U.S. Under Secretary Kelly reported on the Bush-Gorbachev summit. Current issues pertaining to the Middle East, including the situation in Lebanon, also were discussed in the meeting. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador William Brown and by Chief of Intelligence Amnon Shahaq."]

Before the day is out, Mr Kelly will meet with Egypt's President Mubarak and his foreign minister. After that, he will travel to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Arens Calls PLO Response to Plan 'Irrelevant'

TA0512161089 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Ilana Dayan in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Dayan] The PLO has transmitted to Egypt, which has transmitted to the United States, which has transmitted to Israel, some sort of reply to Baker's five points. This was one of the main points in U.S. Under Secretary of State John Kelly's talks today in Jerusalem with the forum of four, and each minister separately. We are hosting Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in our Jerusalem studio. Good evening, sir.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Dayan] We are again surprised by the multitude of answers and reactions coming from the various bureaus. Peres' bureau, for example, says Bush and Baker recognize the urgency of the matter and that this is the time to advance the peace process. Your office and the Prime Minister's Office say nothing new has occurred, that there is no movement, that there is no Egyptian response. What is the U.S. Administration waiting for now?

[Arens] First, there is no contradiction between recognition of the urgency of the issue—and I believe that we here in Israel recognize the urgency of advancing peace more than anybody else—and expecting an answer which has not yet arrived. These two things do not contradict each other. The Americans are awaiting an Egyptian response. It all began in Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli contacts when I was in New York for the UN General Assembly. I met with President Mubarak, 'Abd-al-Majid, and Baker. There was a tripartite meeting between 'Abd-al-Majid, Baker, and myself, and we began to prepare the ground for a dialogue between Palestinians and an Israeli delegation over the Israeli peace initiative.

[Dayan] But all that is already history...

[Arens, interrupting] What is your question then?

[Dayan] My question is about what is happening now. The PLO has directly transmitted some document, whether official or not, to the Americans, which in fact contains an answer to the Baker initiative. Does the U.S. Administration view it as an affirmative or negative response?

[Arens] The U.S. Administration is ignoring it altogether. I tried to explain until you stopped me that the contacts are between Egypt, the United States, and Israel. The United States is not awaiting an answer from the PLO because it is irrelevant.

[Dayan] Did anybody even consider that Egypt would be negotiating the long-sought response with any organization besides the PLO?

[Arens] Egypt is negotiating with us and the United States. It is possible that in the final analysis Egypt will not give an affirmative response. When we met 2 months ago in New York the impression gained was that Egypt would provide a positive answer. It is possible that, in the meantime, perhaps as a result of PLO pressure, they are incapable of providing such an answer.

[Dayan] There is an impression that the Egyptians are disappointed with the answer provided by the PLO to the U.S. Administration. Is that also your impression after what you heard today from Kelly?

[Arens] We did not refer at all to the PLO or messages from the PLO. They are simply irrelevant to the process and to contacts between Egypt, the United States, and Israel.

[Dayan] Is that also what Secretary of State Baker wanted to make clear to you yesterday in the extraordinary telephone conversation between the two of you from President Bush's aircraft?

[Arens] There was no need for him to make that clear to me because it has been clear for a long time.

[Dayan] Do you get the impression from what you heard from Kelly and Baker—and from Bush yesterday in the telephone conversation after he took hold of the receiver—that there is an intention in Washington to convene, in the near future, a meeting of Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. foreign ministers, or is there no point to such a meeting until there is some answer from Egypt?

[Arens] I believe that as long as there is no answer from Egypt, at least in the framework we considered when we discussed it 12 months ago in New York, there is no point in convening such a meeting. It is possible that an affirmative answer from Egypt will not be received—we have in fact been waiting for over a month—and in that case we might see some point to convening a tripartite meeting in an attempt to find other ways to advance the peace process and our idea of elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Dayan] I reiterate the question about the PLO because I believe that everybody is talking about the same thing but nobody is calling a spade a spade. In the final analysis, an Egyptian answer depends on whether the PLO would be willing to sit in what the Americans call the back seat [preceding two words in English] and permit Egypt to negotiate matters for the Arabs from the territories. In fact, from what we have been hearing from Tunis in recent days, it appears that there is no chance that such a thing will happen.

[Arens] What is happening in my view is not so complex. We all know the actors. The PLO is making desperate efforts to somehow become involved in this process, to enter into contacts with an Israeli delegation. We just will not permit them to do so. We have no interest in negotiating with them. We are prepared for negotiations with the elected representatives of the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. If we achieve our objective in this political arena, which is not easy, I believe it will not be an insignificant achievement for the State of Israel's foreign policy.

[Dayan] By the way, it was reported in newspapers early this week that the PLO is about to provide an affirmative answer to the U.S. Administration over Baker's five points. It has transpired that those reports were totally baseless. Were you surprised?

[Arens] I was not surprised at all, but we have people, perhaps including some of our journalists, who would like that to happen. What is often written in the newspapers does not reflect reality, but the desire of the writer.

[Dayan] Of the writer, or perhaps of the person who gives him the information? Perhaps a certain section of the national unity government had hoped that would happen.

[Arens] I would prefer not to respond on that.

[Dayan] The last question, Mr Arens, against the background of what was agreed upon or at least discussed in the Malta summit on which you were briefed this morning by John Kelly, did you learn that Middle East affairs interest the superpowers at all? Do Bush and Gorbachev even consider pushing more intensively for progress in the peace process?

[Arens] I believe we should distinguish here between the USSR and the United States. Soviet leader Gorbachev has many problems, many urgent issues these days, which I assume are more urgent than the Middle East issue. The United States does not have those type of problems, although it certainly has to take into account the historic changes occurring in East Europe. The United States continues to be interested in the Middle East, in the Middle East peace process, and its relations with the State of Israel.

[Dayan] Thank you very much, Minister Arens, for coming to our studio.

'No Information' on GDR Minister's Arrival

TA0512194489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The GDR's secretary of state for foreign trade [title as heard] fled his country, and according to a DPA report there is a possibility that he has arrived in Israel on a fake FRG passport. There is so far no information or confirmation of this report.

The GDR television announcer about 30 minutes ago reported on the searches for Secretary Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the man is Jewish, which is the reason for the assumption that he might have reached Israel.

According to the East Berlin television report, the man flew from West Berlin to Stuttgart and back again, where all trace of him was lost. It is suspected that he deposited 10 million marks belonging to the GDR Treasury in Swiss banks. Schalck-Golodkowski's wife and family remained in the GDR.

Ministries Respond to 'Rumors'

TA0612105589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 89 p 4

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Gid'on Alon]

[Text] The Interior Ministry yesterday reported that it has no knowledge of the presence in Israel of Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, and that rumors to that effect will be investigated in the next few days. An Interior Ministry source yesterday told HA'ARETZ unofficially that "if he has indeed entered Israel, he probably did so on a false passport and as a tourist. The personal declaration form filled in by every tourist who arrives by plane is entered into the computer system, but it can be retrieved only 48 hours later. At this point, therefore, there is no

way to tell who filled out a form or whether he came to Israel from Germany by air in the past few days."

The Foreign Ministry, too, said yesterday that it has no information concerning Schalck-Golodkowski's alleged defection to Israel. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi 'Amihud added that no official request from the German authorities to turn him over to them had yet arrived.

Gorbachev Viewed as Hope Against German Unity

TA2911122989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "No to One Germany"]

[Text] The slogan "one nation, one country" voiced with increasing frequency by West German personalities in recent days is accompanied by a discordant and terrifying note. Hearing the words, people with a memory for history recall the bloodcurdling battle cry of "one nation, one reich, one leader," which reflected Nazi Germany's expansionist ambitions and which led to World War II.

In his Bundestag address yesterday, Chancellor Helmut Kohl refrained from urging an acceleration of the two Germanies' reunification process. At this point, he limited himself to outlining a long-range plan, which is supposed to bring about the much-desired reunification by stages through purely democratic ways. Be that as it may, German chauvinism has raised its head with astonishing speed, and the unification idea is beginning to take shape.

In these circumstances, why does Yitzhaq Shamir still resort to understatement, limiting himself to talk about "a disturbing development" and hesitating to call the danger by its proper name? Who else but the prime minister of Israel is duty-bound to raise his voice and warn the world of the potential threat inherent in the resurrection of a unified Germany in the heart of Europe?

One can only hope that in view of Shamir's feeble expressions of reservation, Bush's indifference, and West European leaders' impotent discomfiture, Gorbachev, at the Malta summit, will cool the Germans and utter a sharp, vigorous, and determined "nyet" to the seekers of reunification.

Netanyahu Discusses Relations With Hungary

TA0512181589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn has said that his country is considering changing its official position toward Zionism. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that these statements were made to Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is visiting Budapest. During their meeting, the Hungarian foreign minister pointed out that the changes sweeping Eastern Europe are irrevocable.

Deputy Minister Netanyahu will meet the Hungarian deputy prime minister and discuss the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat Invited to Turkey

TA0512111189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 89 p 3

["Exclusive" report from Turkey by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Excerpt] Klasis—Turkish Deputy Tourism Minister Mustafa Turkmen has invited Israeli Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat to visit Turkey to promote bilateral tourism.

Speaking to the HA'ARETZ correspondent at the annual convention of travel and tourism agents held at this resort, the Turkish deputy minister said there had been no room for the participation of the Israeli tourism minister in the convention because it was organized by the professional union of travel agents in both countries. [passage omitted]

Expansion of Territorial Waters Sought at UN

TA0512110789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Through official elements, the Israeli Navy has recently approached the UN international committee that determines territorial water limits with a demand to expand Israel's territorial waters from 6 to 12 nautical miles because of operational requirements. Israel had previously refrained from submitting such a demand because of U.S. objections, but the Americans recently withdrew their opposition. Army sources noted that Israel needs at least a 12-mile limit to prevent terrorist infiltrations. The Navy prevents terrorist infiltrations by patrolling Israeli and Lebanese shorelines to stop terrorist boats from lowering rubber dinghies or other vessels into the water.

As a result of the searches, patrols, and interceptions on the high seas, merchant ships and other vessels have moved their navigation course dozens of miles away from Israel's coast to avoid being held up by the Navy's search operations.

State Revenues From April to November Reported

TA0512124389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Dec 89 p B1

[Report by Yosi Groenstein]

[Excerpt] State revenues from taxes from April to November 1989 totaled 17 billion Israeli shekels, a 13-percent drop in real terms compared with the same period in 1988.

Revenues in November totaled 2.3 billion shekels, similar to the sums collected in September and October.

This reflects an increase in tax collection compared with the slump registered at the beginning of the fiscal year. [passage omitted]

5 'Terrorist' Infiltrators From Sinai Killed

TA0512151789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Five terrorists were killed before dawn in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit near Har Harif in the western Negev. Our forces did not sustain any casualties.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that before dawn an IDF unit discerned the squad, which had infiltrated into our territory from Sinai. After a chase, five terrorists were killed in a clash. Many weapons were found in their possession.

We have just received an additional point to this item: The terrorists had apparently planned to carry out an attack to mark the second anniversary of the intifadah.

Southern Commander Responds

TA0512163589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Five terrorists were killed before dawn in the western Negev in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. There were no casualties among our forces. The terrorists were on their way to perpetrate a murderous attack on an Israeli settlement. In the course of an interview with our military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el, Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, said that the timing of the clash may be linked to the 2d anniversary of the uprising.

[Begin recording] [Vilna'i] The clash occurred before dawn last night. The confrontation took place in an area we call the western Negev, not in the area opposite the Gaza Strip but rather in the area opposite the Sinai. The infiltration was from the Sinai to the Negev.

[Har'el] Can you describe the course of the incident for us. How many casualties were there?

[Vilna'i] I can say that all the infiltrators were killed.

[Har'el] What kind of weapons were found near the bodies?

[Vilna'i] We found many weapons. Each terrorist had his own weapon. The weapons were in good condition. We discovered an assault rifle, a kalashnikov, many grenades—something like 50—I believe the exact number is 51. The grenades were of all kinds: for defense and attack purposes. We also found wire cutters and binoculars. All this equipment points to the fact that these men intended to kill, without any unnecessary arguments. This was no attack designed to seize hostages and thus secure the release of detainees. These men simply planned to commit murder.

[Har'el] Do you already know which organization these terrorists belonged to?

[Vilna'i] No. They carried no identification or documents, and therefore we have no way of knowing which organization they belonged to.

[Har'el] Is it in any way connected to the 2d anniversary of the uprising that will be marked at the end of this week?

[Vilna'i] One can guess that the two things are linked. We are all aware of the fact the date of 9 December will mark 2 years to the official outbreak of the uprising. There is no doubt that the organizations we confront will attempt to carry out an attack of this kind, and the two issues can be linked. Our own awareness and activity were appropriate.

[Har'el] How would you evaluate the performance of the IDF soldiers?

[Vilna'i] The soldiers performed very well. I think it already seems banal to say this, but they reacted exactly as is expected of them.

[Har'el] The border with Egypt is generally very quiet. Can the IDF prevent all infiltration attempts from this frontier in spite of its limited deployment there?

[Vilna'i] Yes. It is our only peaceful border, except for the air, and we treat it as such. However, I have no doubt that we will have to take under consideration the very fact that an incident like this occurred. [end recording]

Egyptian Refugees To Begin Arriving From Rafah

TA0612054389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Last night the army demolished the house of the terrorist who tried to roll a No. 405 bus into a ravine, and who had murdered a Jewish night watchman in Tel Aviv—a fact which came out only after the man's arrest. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Ramallah house was demolished after the High Court rejected the family's appeal.

Curfews were clamped this morning on Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood and on the al-Shati' and al-Burayj refugee camps.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 6 December adds: "The head of the Gaza Civil Administration, Brigadier General Arye Ramot, has ordered the cutting off of 45 telephone lines in the Gaza Strip. Residents with those lines are suspected of calling Arab countries through a U.S. agency without authorization and in defiance of the law. Those whose lines are down include journalists."]

Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Ziyad reports that families of refugees from Egyptian Rafah will start crossing into Israel today. According to the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, 5,800 refugees will have crossed over the next 5 years.

Soviet Jews Arrive Via Crossing Point at Rafah

TA0612054589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Over 11,000 Jews left the Soviet Union in November. Of these, under 2,000 came to Israel. The rest dropped out in Vienna. Since the beginning of the year only 14 percent of the Jews leaving the Soviet Union have come to Israel. Uri Gordon, Jewish Agency immigration and absorption department chairman, expressed satisfaction with the number of Soviet immigrants, and said 29,000 invitations to come here have been sent to Jews in the USSR.

Soviet immigrants are coming to Israel via Egypt as well. Voice of Israel reporter Nava Kohen, down at the border crossing point at Rafah, yesterday found out that because of pressure on flight lines from the USSR to the West, Jewish immigrants and tourists have been seeking out alternative routes to Israel, including one via Egypt. The fly Aeroflot to Cairo, and from there go overland by taxicab through the Sinai to Israel. Our reporter says they enter on tourist visas and thereafter are given immigrant status. The Moscow-Cairo route is $200 cheaper than any other.

Guarantees on Exports to Eastern Bloc Approved

TA0512115889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The government has approved the principle of export guarantees for manufacturers selling to the Eastern Bloc. It is to be introduced on a 1-year trial basis. The target countries include Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. Certain deals with the Soviet Union will also be underwritten.

Rabin Urges Confronting Intifadah With Patience

TA0512185589 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Address by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to army reservists on 5 December, place not given; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Excerpts] What have we achieved? I have said that we have not yet achieved our aim solely through military means. We have prevented several things: the violent demonstrations and the active civil rebellion. I believe that this confrontation is not easy. I know that there are those who believe in miracle formulas. I do not. There were those who believed in miracle formulas to uproot terror in a certain Arab country, and we learned that this is not so.

I do believe that in such confrontations—and the confrontation is between two separate political, religious, and national entities... [incomplete sentence as heard] Moreover, the depth of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is greater than of that between the people in the Arab states. It has been going on longer, it is graver. I believe that in this type of confrontation the side that succeeds is the one that trusts itself, that is steadfast, that has patience and perseverance. Steadfastness is important, but so is patience. [passage omitted]

I believe that in confronting the uprising, if we remain firm, if we create the feeling that we are capable of remaining steadfast—whether it takes another year or 2, although I hope less—we will succeed, even if a political solution is not found.

Criticism of Intifadah's Handling Answered

TA0112132389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Text] The PLO and extremist Islamic groups, not Israel, are responsible for the deaths and injuries of rioting children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the Justice Ministry.

The ministry said this in a four-page report, Children as Participants in the Intifada, issued yesterday in response to persistent criticism from various human-rights groups of Israeli policy on children in the administered territories.

The report says that the intifada leadership has consistently "exploited children by placing them in harm's way. Thus it is the inciters and not the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] who must ultimately be held responsible."

It is a clear breach of international law (Fourth Geneva Convention, 1949) to use civilians as shields to impede military operations, the report notes.

The PLO and Islamic extremists recruit "children of all ages to participate in the street violence," says the report. The children set fire to tyres, block roads and throw stones and other dangerous objects at Israeli soldiers.

Yet the security forces "are often more lenient in dealing with minors than the law permits." Visits to detention centres in 1988 and 1989 by the Geneva-based Defence for Children International found no child under 14 in detention.

As to criticisms of the Israeli authorities for schools closures, the ministry noted that governmental efforts had helped raise the percentage of eligible Arab children in the administered territories attending school from 56 percent in 1967 to 87 per cent by 1986. Given so demonstrable an interest in increasing schooling, it should be easily understood that the authorities ordered schools closed only when they had become centres of intifada violence rather than education, says the report.

Finally, turning to the security forces' use of tear gas in the administered territories, the Justice Ministry stressed that canisters were not fired arbitrarily, nor were they fired into "homes, mosques or schools, except in an efforts to force rioters out of buildings where they have hidden after violently attacking IDF soldiers or civilians."

Amnesty International's recent annual report asserted that soldiers threw tear gas canisters in excessive concentrations into houses, clinics, schools and mosques "despite manufacturers' instructions not to use the gas in confined spaces, as it was potentially lethal."

The ministry's report contends that much of the reporting on Israel's use of tear gas is "replete with errors and unfounded medical assumptions."

Paper Reviews Economic Aspects of Intifadah

TA0512150289

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 5 December devotes pages 1 through 8 of its Tuesday economics and business supplement MAMON to a "special" report on the 2-year long intifadah, with contributions by Sever Plotzker, Moriya Avnimelekh, 'Edna Iss, Avraham Dishon, Yisra'el Tomer, Gid'on 'Eshet, and Shoshana Hen. After an introduction by way of an overview by Sever Plotzker, the review is subdivided into specialized categories that focus on different angles and manifestations of this popular uprising on the local and national economies.

In his introduction entitled "They Pay; We Set the Price," Sever Plotzker notes that "the two years of the intifadah have seriously harmed the economy of the 'state of the territories' and caused moderate injuries to the Israeli market. Were it not for the intifadah, the Palestinian gross national product [GNP] would have been double its current volume, and Israel's would have been higher by approximately 5 percent. In both cases, the loss involves approximately $2 billion, and neither side winks at this."

Plotzker adds, "On the eve of the intifadah, the territories already were an undeveloped economic entity, lacking independent viability, relying for almost all of their needs on the Israeli ruler and suffering from 20, or 40 to be more precise, years of deliberate neglect by changing occupying regimes. Although there was a brief period of prosperity after the 6-Day War, as the political uncertainty persisted and the locals still failed to unite, growth has stagnated so that ultimately the economies of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have frozen since the early 1980's. The intifadah not only exacerbated these processes, but it fairly obliterated the progress and achievements of an entire generation of Palestinians. The per capita product in Gaza is on a par with that of a remote African country that needs assistance to survive. Although in Judaea and Samaria that figure is somewhat higher, it still does not amount to even one-tenth of its equivalent in Israel."

Plotzker continues: "Because it is conducted by the children of the Palestinian society, the intifadah also seriously affects the ability of this society to shape its future wisely. In the heat of their fighting in the territories, the Palestinians are forfeiting their future business-entrepreneurial leadership and the financial and administrative elite that could ultimately form the nucleus of whatever political system the Palestinian people will attain in the future. When they are grown up, the children wielding rocks will make very bad businessmen and, as the history of previous revolutions in the Third World have shown, will refuse to acknowledge the supremacy of economics over politics.

"The problems of supply, demand, balance, interest rates, and budgetary deficits cannot be resolved by secret leaflets, stone-throwing battalions, operative instructions, hit teams, or popular support. All these require traits that are on the extreme polar end of the characteristics in which the intifadah fighter excels.

"Certainly no sensible economic solution will be found among the pages of Leninist or religious Muslim literature, which are studied carefully by the intifadah detainees in their prison cells.

"After 2 years, the intifadah has not been quelled, but it has lost its ideological compass. The world, too, has lost its interest in it. What is the source of this failure? The upheavals in East Europe were brought about by a thinking, rational, and restrained leadership. Poland's Solidarity preached nonviolence and 'a revolution that can outline its own limits.' Its foci of rebellion are called 'the Civilian Forum,' the idea being to shed the hated oppressive regime not by acts of terrorism or heroism (depending on the definition of these terms), but by establishing a civilian society—a sort of sovereign democratic state within a nonindependent, undemocratic state.

"These civilian moves were not emulated by the Palestinians through the intifadah, although during the initial months the impression was that this was its general direction. Now it simply wrecks Palestinian civilian society and its economic infrastructure.

"This is happening precisely as we gradually grow accustomed to the intifadah militarily, economically, and even morally. Thus, the army has mastered the task of policing, the market has learned to disconnect itself from the territories, and the conscience has learned to keep still."

As statistics go, writes Yisra'el Tomer in a subhead entitled "On Men and Numbers," "even before the intifadah, we only had limited information on the economic situation in the territories. The uprising added to the chaos, so that now it is all guesswork." Therefore, although the Central Bureau of Statistics provided the 1988 census for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, a careful reading of the fine print shows that "the last census of the population of the territories was conducted exactly 22 years ago" and the current figures are derived from birth and death registrations. As a result, "if this is true as far as the number of residents is concerned, it is all the more so with regard to the economic situation in the territories during the intifadah." It is not "voluntary" but stems from the security situation and the "collapse" of various systems that existed earlier, such as the polling mechanism to gauge manpower and the

movement of goods, nearly defi
shrink from visiting the places affunct now as pollsters
flicted by unrest.

"Consequently," Tomer continue
we have not had any relatively es, "for nearly 2 years
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and what they sell there." He adwhat they buy in Israel,
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Avraham Dishon's observation in
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made up 6 percent of the overall l there, but they only
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This channel was "blocked," howeademark, of course."
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Yisra'el Tomer writes under the
Stronger Than the Leaflets" that "in: headline "Life Is
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"Subsequently, the intifadah leadership changed its policy," replacing the ban on departure for work with designated days of strike per week and establishing an "unorganized" framework of work in Israel. Currently "only a small fraction of laborers requires the services of employment services (or approximately 26 percent of the overall number of workers in Israel). The vast majority (74 percent) work 'underground.'" This is explained as deriving from the "atmosphere" in the territories, where although they work in Israel, the Arab employees "do not want to be registered or formally associated with Israeli institutions." This corresponds to a general Israeli tendency to prefer employing labor from the territories "without the mediation of the employment service, thereby saving social benefit allowances."

In an unattributed passage called "And Now, the Disengagement Is Stabilizing," it is concluded that despite the initial reaction of horror at the industry and trade minister's call for a reciprocal boycott of goods both from the moral aspect and from the economic point of view, "it turns out that the intifadah limited the volume of two-way trade between Israel and the territories. This is the reality stemming from the forced disengagement. Thus, Israeli exports to the territories dropped by about one-third during the 1st year of the intifadah, stabilizing at a level 25-percent lower than the 1987 average, or approximately $60 million a month. Imports from the territories also shrank: In 1988 it was smaller than half the level at the end of 1987, and it is currently 40 percent lower than the 1987 level, standing at approximately $15 million a month alone."

Citing research conducted by Bank Hapo'alim for the damages wrought by the intifadah in tourism, absenteeism, commerce, and defense spending, Moriya Avnimelekh's article "The Impact Is Declining" points out that the effects on the tourism branch during the 1st year of the intifadah was 13 percent compared to 1987. Absenteeism, "felt mainly in agriculture, construction, health and sanitation, textile and food industries, car repair services, and the food and restaurant fields, plus losses resulting from damages to Israeli exports to the territories and the rise in defense spending" caused a drop of 1.5 percent in the GNP, or, "in current prices, approximately $600 million." A similar estimate for 1988 shows that "the intifadah's damages dropped to about half that rate, accounting for a loss of 0.5 percent of the GNP, or between $200 and $400 million. The "intifadah's sting is not as painful, because tourism has revived and absenteeism is less rampant (the total level is equivalent to the absence of 10,000 workers from the territories, compared to 25,000 in 1988). Unemployment has contributed to the lesser impact as well. It is believed that defense spending also decreased in the 2d year of the intifadah."

Avraham Dishon, in a passage entitled "Farmers: We Have Not Returned to Normal," writes that since the private Israeli farm relies almost exclusively on "cheap Arab labor," the intifadah "brought the farmers back to the land" but caused a "substantial drop" in livestock

purchases in Israel for meat and milk. The drop in fruit and vegetable purchases also affected the farmers.

Avraham Dishon, Yisra'el Tomer, and Moriya Avnimelekh report on the industrial sector in a section called "The Industrialists: We Have Overcome." They note that "the effect of the intifadah on industry was expressed mainly in the organizational problem involved in the swift shift to the manufacture of high-value-added products without the reliance on cheap labor," which was the basis for the pricing of goods produced by "a segment" of the industry, primarily textiles and food "where the percentage of labor from the territories was over 25 percent." Nabulus and Hebron used to be the target areas for "relatively low-quality finished clothing and footwear goods from Israel, but that market has somewhat closed to Israeli products." Thus, after 2 years of the uprising, "these two areas seem different today. The industrialists are being weaned from the addiction to cheap labor from the territories, are less dependent on it, do not demand it as urgently, and are prepared to pay less for it."

A prominent industrialist is quoted as saying that "the drop in the number of laborers from the territories in 1988 was 35 percent of the 1987 level. The trend continued in 1989, with an additional cutback of 12 percent (compared to 18 percent in the market at large)." Workers from the territories were paid 3 percent less in 1989, after an increase in 1988. "Industrial exports to the territories dropped from $930 million in 1987 to $650 million in 1988 and to between $700 and $750 million in 1989, affecting mainly the food and textile industries, as well as the export of cement and construction material."

Yet, "something good has come out of this as well. Israeli industry has reached the conclusion that it must become more efficient and invest in advanced equipment in order not to rely so heavily on cheap labor. Furthermore, whereas previously the industrialists complained the dumping of low-quality goods from the territories affected them mortally, the events led to a slowdown in imports from the territories, working in favor of the local manufacturers."

Shoshana Hen's segment entitled "The Second-Hand Market Is Dead" concludes that "before the outbreak of the intifadah, the territories were the Israeli consumer's backyard. Everything that Israel inside the Green Line wanted to get rid of found its way to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, beginning with used refrigerators; through broken heaters; second-hand cars, for which the Arabs served as the most hefty potential slice of the market; used books, clothes, footwear, and furniture; and construction materials no longer in use."

Today, however, "the second-hand market is dead. The intifadah killed it." In short, "masses of used electrical goods are waiting for a buyer, but the Arab market has shrunk and prices have dropped." Hen goes on to say, "According to the latest annual statistical bulletin, 1 out of every 6 Israelis owns a car, while in the territories, it is 1 out of every 26. The rise in the standard of living should have upped the price of used cars markedly, but the intifadah blocked the process and even led to a reversal. Moreover, an owner of a vehicle becomes an easy target for government harassment and can easily be tracked or detained. It is no problem to confiscate his car. Thus, unless it is an absolute necessity, they do not buy cars." However, "in the past few months second-hand car sales have stabilized at about half the volume of the pre-intifadah times. The same is true for vans and larger vehicles, the sale of which now stands at 30 percent below the 1987 level." In 1989 the car market in Israel—worth approximately $11 billion—suffered a 20-percent loss, mainly because of the recession and the intifadah. This is worse in the larger, commercial vehicle sector, which suffered a drop of up to 25 percent."

The next passage, entitled "Trade in Gold and Black Market Activity Has Shrunk," is written by Avraham Dishon. He finds that "Arabs tend to invest in gold, not necessarily because of financial acumen but more because of their mental makeup. The Gaza and Ramallah gold markets were among the more thriving ones in the Middle East" but now are "virtually defunct." But it is not only the gold market that is dead. "The foreign currency black market is almost dead, too." The booming market in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem operated "at such intensity mainly thanks to the residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They funneled foreign currency into these markets, and also purchased in bulk. Now, that market relies almost exclusively on Israeli residents and has obviously shrunk greatly."

Avraham Dishon writes about car repair service in an article called "The Servicemen's Glee." He points out that this branch "benefited from the intifadah, for while previously many people would repair their vehicles in the territories because of the lower prices, this phenomenon has been halted. Similarly, the relatively common pastime of dining out in restaurants in West Bank towns has been terminated almost completely. The Israeli restaurants enjoy this. Purchases of food and produce in the West Bank, where they were cheaper, also ended, and the Israelis who frequented West Bank dentist parlors for their lower rates have put an end to that habit and returned to their Israeli counterparts' chairs—at a far higher fee."

In conclusion, Gid'on 'Eshet notes in his commentary "Not Everything Is Negative" that "even though the negative aspects far outweigh the positive implications, the latter should also be mentioned." These are unemployment, whose dimensions would probably have been far worse were it not for the intifadah, for while "many Israelis still refuse to work for Palestinian wages, there is a growing influx of Israeli labor into workplaces previously occupied by workers from the territories."

Another aspect is the quality of the goods. Manufacturers can no longer be complacent that they will find a ready market for cheap goods in the territories. Now they

are forced to invest in equipment and produce a better product. Additionally, in technology, because the Israeli contractor cannot now rely on cheap and available labor from the territories, "there is no escape but to progress toward higher technological levels to replace cheap manpower." And in politics, "the intifadah forces all of us to seek a political solution to our conflict with them. Besides, a political solution is the best recipe to tackle the Israeli economy's foremost problem: defense spending. In the short term, the budget is larger; but if the intifadah yields a political settlement, Shamir and 'Arafat would be able to talk like Bush and Gorbachev on cuts in defense spending. This could increase spending on welfare."

Under the headline "Economic Stranglehold and Mass Unemployment," Gid'on 'Eshet and Roni Shaqed hold a roundtable discussion with seven Palestinians: Dr Samir Hazbun from Bi'r Zayt University; Dr Nabil Quqali from Hebron University; Shahir Sa'd, secretary of the Palestinian Trade Union Federation; Tawfiq Abu-'Aytah, a textile plant owner from Bayt Sahur; Mufid al-'Akr, a textile plant owner from Nabulus; As'ad al-Sharaf, a bakery owner from Nabulus; and Husayn al-Fawqa, general secretary of the Hotel Workers Federation in the territories.

In their opening paragraph, the authors sum up the price paid by the Palestinians for the intifadah as "unemployment and a drop in the standard of living," but add that the positive aspect is "less extravagant consumption and more consumption adapted to production in the territories. There are even factory owners who have expanded their businesses."

Dr Hazbun says the problem of tax payment preceded the intifadah, but that "since the uprising broke out there has been a change in the Government of Israel's attitude toward the economy in the territories. The government creates a major problem by refusing to extend business licenses."

He says the intifadah has also influenced income and consumption since the local inhabitants "have begun to spend their money on things that are really important." He also says, "There has been an increase in the ban on Israeli products and an increased demand for local goods, thereby improving the condition of the farmers and industrialists. This improvement finds expression in the establishment of new plants and the expansion of existing ones." One of the results of this effort "has been a certain decline in the level of unemployment." Dr Hazbun says that, according to "unofficial statistics, the level of unemployment is 30 to 35 percent."

Asked how the intifadah has influenced the condition of the Palestinian workers, Mr Sa'd replies: "Before the intifadah, some 165,000 laborers from the territories worked in Israel." He says the Palestinian Trade Union Federation has formed links with trade unions in other countries with the aim of finding funds "to set up small-scale projects of 10 to 15 employees."

Mr Sa'd says the salaries paid in the territories are low. "The average wage is 350 to 370 shekels a month."

Dr Quqali believes that since the intifadah started "the residents of the occupied territories have been in an economic stranglehold. The crisis is spreading and deepening all the time. There are several reasons for this:

"1. The devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, which was the currency in which savings were invested and large deals were made.

"2. The lack of foreign currency. The Israeli authorities have restricted the flow from outside to 200 dinars per person, not only via the Jordan River bridges but also via banks.

"3. A thirty-percent increase in the price of basic foodstuffs.

"4. An increase in unemployment inside the Green Line and the occupied territories. In such a situation, there is a tendency by Israeli businessmen to fire laborers from the territories. Part of the workers lost their jobs because they could not get to work on strike days.

"5. A lack of daily and monthly income as a result of participation in intifadah activities, closure of regions, curfews, and demonstrations.

"6. The Israel economy's general slowdown.

"7. Damage to agricultural caused by nature.

"8. The israeli authorities took a hard line on tax collection.

"All this is happening against the background that from 1969 to 1986 the territories' deficit in trade with Israel grew by about 800 percent to reach some $500 million. The cumulative deficit from 1968 to 1987 reached $5.5 billion. The deficit increase is an expression of the increase in our standard of living. For example, in Gaza in 1972 only 5.7 percent of the households had a refrigerator. By 1985, this went up to 77.8 percent. The increase in consumption led to a drop in savings, which led to a decline in investment possibilities."

Dr Quqali says that this situation has changed since the intifadah. "Today the Palestinians spend only $250 million on Israeli products. This is a consumption intifadah. But our inhabitants have paid a price. According to a recent survey I conducted, during the intifadah the condition of 93 percent of consumers has worsened compared to 7 percent who claim that their condition has improved."

Referring to the situation of the industrialists, Abu-'Aytah says there are two types of industry: the type that has been hit and the type that has profited. "Food and clothing production has grown, while there has been a significant decline in demand for nonessential goods." He says funding from Israeli banks also has dried up and Israeli merchants now want all payments in cash.

Group Says West Bank Justice System Collapsing

TA0612104689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Palestinians arrested during the intifadah languish in prison for months until their trials are completed due to bureaucratic delays at West Bank military courts, according to a report on the military justice system released today by Betzelem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

The report is based mainly on interviews with judges, lawyers and prosecutors, and on observations by a team of Israeli lawyers at the Ramallah and Nabulus military courts. The report asserts that the military justice system in the West Bank is collapsing under its case-load, and is plagued with "carelessness, confusion, negligence," and illegal practices.

The report says that nine out of every ten trials observed were delayed for one of the following reasons: the IDF's [Israel Defence Forces] failure to bring the defendant from jail to court; absence of prosecution witnesses; misplacement of the case file; and requests by the defence for a delay in order to complete plea-bargaining.

According to the report, most instances in which a defendant is not brought to court result in a month's delay until the next hearing. Failure to bring defendants' results from poor communication between courts and prisons. [passage omitted]

One out of every five prosecution witnesses, usually soldiers or policemen, fails to arrive in court. After the witnesses fail to appear five or six times, a plea-bargaining deal is usually reached in order to end the trial and prevent an interminable wait in jail by the defendant. The report notes that many defendants admit to the charges under such arrangements, if only to obtain a verdict which will set a limit to their time in prison.

Under such conditions, the report says, "punishment precedes conviction.... The detainee is punished by imprisonment, and only when he is ready to confess does he obtain a release or notification of when he will be freed." [passage omitted]

Few defendants are released on bail, and imprisonment for the duration of legal proceedings has become an accepted form of punishment, according to the report. It cites the case of merchants from Bayt Sahur charged with failure to file tax reports, for whom bail was set at NIS [new Israeli shekel] 10,000 a sum far higher than the fines imposed on them by the court.

The report lists several other IDF practices which it says are illegal:

—Failure to notify families of the arrest and place of incarceration of their relatives.
—Transfer of prisoners from one detention centre to another without documentation or notification of their lawyers or families.
—Prohibition of lawyers from meeting clients at temporary holding facilities inside military bases.
—Holding of most remand hearings without the presence of a defence lawyer.

The IDF had no response to the Betzelem report, though the study's conclusions were transmitted last week by THE JERUSALEM POST to the army spokesman's office in Jerusalem.

Prison Referendum Names 20 Delegates for Talks

TA3011142489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Excerpt] The leadership of the security prisoners in Israeli and territories' prisons yesterday published a list of 20 names of Palestinians who have been elected in a prison referendum as members of a Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel. The list, which was smuggled from a prison yesterday, stated that the PLO will soon send the 20-member delegation list to the United States via Egypt.

Prisoner leaders added in the letter that 10 out of the 20 will be appointed in a meeting to be held soon between the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States, and Israel. Some of the prominent names on the list are: Muhammad Milhim, the deported mayor of Halhul; Akram Haniyah, AL-SHA'B editor, also deported; Faysal al-Husayni; Hanna Sinyurah; Radwan Abu-'Ayyash; As'ad al-Saftawi; Zuhayra Kamal, chairman of women's labor committee in the Unified National Command of the Uprising; Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo; Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi; and Fayiz Abu-Rahmah. Only 3 of the 20 are presently incarcerated in Israel. [passage omitted]

1,500 Detained in West Bank in Last 4 Months

TA0312060289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The head of the Central Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay said security forces in Judaea and Samaria have apprehended 130 wanted uprising activists and over 1,500 other suspects in the past 4 months. The wanted suspects were captured, he said, in search operations, and the others were taken by chance encounters. [passage omitted]

Update on Palestinian Fatalities in Uprising

TA0612095689 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 6 Dec 89 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Thursday, 30 November, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 530 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's figures, the number of Palestinian fatalities on 4 December was 673.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 819 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—597 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire;

—82 fatalities from asphyxiation;

—54 fatalities from beatings and electrocution;

—86 fatalities from other causes.

Badran Continues Consultations on Cabinet

JN0512181889 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister-designate Mudar Badran has said that, in accordance with the prevailing parliamentary practice and democratic atmosphere, he is continuing consultations to form the new cabinet. Badran added that the names of his cabinet members will be announced within the next 24 hours.

Muslim Brotherhood Demands 6 Cabinet Portfolios

JN0512181689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Mudar Badran is expected to complete this evening the consultations he began yesterday to form a government. The new government will be announced either late tonight or tomorrow.

Our radio has learned that the Muslim Brotherhood deputies have demanded that they be represented in the new cabinet by being given six portfolios, including education, information, and awqaf. The Muslim Brotherhood deputies were offered the portfolios of higher education, labor, and agriculture, in addition to awqaf, which has been given to an Islamist deputy who does not belong to the Muslim Brotherhood.

As of this afternoon, consultations were continuing between Badran and Brotherhood representatives to reach common ground on representing them in the new cabinet.

Meanwhile, King Husayn has appointed Zayd Bin-Shakir as Royal Hashemite Court chief to succeed Badran following Bin-Shakir's resignation. His appointment will be announced officially when Bin-Shakir resigns from the Senate, because an official cannot be a Senate member and Royal Court chief simultaneously.

The new prime minister is expected to agree to Bin-Shakir's resignation from the Senate after he assumes his official duties.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Opposition to UN Resolution

JN0612114489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Dec 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Values and Principles Versus Muscles"]

[Text] The resolutions issued by the UN General Assembly the day before yesterday have placed the international community, perhaps for the 50th time, before the fact that certain sides want a just and comprehensive peace to prevail in the Middle East and that other sides want to maintain the current situation, which may explode at any time. We are not surprised by the U.S. opposition to the three resolutions issued by the General Assembly. The first resolution stresses the Palestinian Arab people's right to an independent state on their national soil. The second calls for convening an international peace conference and suspending military and economic aid to Israel if it does not respond to the peace efforts. The third resolution opposed by Washington is related to the city of Jerusalem. By voting against this resolution, the United States has completely turned its back on the most important principles of the United Nations and on international legitimacy and has given its support for Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem.

The United States used to justify its opposition to any resolution against Israel in the UN arena or in other international and regional circles by alleging that these resolutions would increase Israel's extremism and would not help in the peace process. However, 2 decades of experience have proved that the more Israel wins Washington's unlimited support, the more it increases its extremism, its rejection of peace, and its organized terrorism inside and outside Palestine.

The United States does not usually give any convincing political or ethical justifications for many of its positions. Regarding a draft resolution at the General Assembly calling for considering the PLO an observer state and not an observer organization in light of the declaration of the Palestinian state, Washington hinted that it would suspend its financial contribution to the United Nations if the draft resolution were approved by the General Assembly, as expected. This threat by a superpower proves clearly that the United States still views the international community not as a group of thoughts, values, and principles that should be consulted and around which persuasion should be built, but as a group of weak entities that cannot remain steadfast for long in front of the strength of America, which is equipped with pistols, knives, and chains and which can launch a real war of starvation, bankruptcy, and destruction against an international body created by humanity to represent the most sacred, great, and noble principles and values.

No one knows what the Americans' grandsons will read about their forefathers, who tried to convince the world of the soundness of their viewpoint by undermining the ideas and beliefs of all humanity.

Al-Hirawi Describes Plans in Various Interviews

Preparing To Enter East Areas

NC0612111289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Dec (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has disclosed that he has instructed Army Commander Emile Lahhud to get ready to enter Beirut's eastern areas and end the existing anomalous situation there. He emphasized that he will be in the presidential palace of B'abda within a few days.

In an interview with Kuwait's AL-QABAS, published today, the Lebanese president said he has given all mediation efforts a chance. The time allowed for these mediation efforts being carried out by friendly regional and international quarters has been precisely determined.

In the interview, Al-Hirawi cautioned that should the peaceful solution fail the responsibility would be shouldered by the usurper and his followers. He denied having sought help from any militia to force 'Awn to leave his illegitmate position.

The Lebanese president pointed out that all militias will be dissolved during the next cabinet meeting, warning that if any militia refuses to heed the dissolution decision it will be quelled with the appropriate means, and perhaps this would require seeking the help of the Syrian forces in accordance with the al-Ta'if accord.

In his interview with AL-QABAS, President al-Hirawi affirmed that future negotiations with Syria will be conducted only between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments and that he will not allow any individual to take part in the negotiations.

Al-Hirawi said that the Lebanese armed forces will be built in order to maintain commitment to the armistice agreement with Israel, noting that he will make the necessary efforts to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The Lebanese president said that the doors of the presidential palace are open for [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja', particularly since he wants to unify the state and will work to implement the al-Ta'if decisions. [sentence as received]

Prepared To Decide on Military Option

PM0512114489 Paris LE MONDE in French 3-4 Dec 89 p 4

[Interview with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Francoise Chipaux in Ablah—date not given]

[Text] Ablah (al-Biqa')—"Nobody is proposing a solution to me—not the Soviet Union, or the United States, with which I have daily contacts, or the French who are speaking on the EEC's behalf, or the Arab triumvirate, or local intermediaries. I would have liked to receive something palpable, but I have received nothing. Everybody is asking me for a little time to find a peaceful solution to General 'Awn's departure. I agree to wait a while, but the Lebanese president's residence is in B'abda (in the Christian sector of Beirut), and that is where I must reside. I will not go to West Beirut (which has a Muslim majority) and I cannot remain in the al-Biqa'."

In the modest dwelling of an officer hidden under the pines inside the Ablah military base, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi said he is firm and determined. As one of his close aides said: "If he fails with his own community (the Maronites), he will never be able to impose his rule on the others."

Mr al-Hirawi is suggesting that Gen 'Awn should "engage in politics and form a party to defend his ideas. Perhaps he will then become the heir of Camille Sham'un or Pierre al-Jumayyil." "But," the president continued, "if he remains in B'abda surrounded by a section of the Lebanese army which comes under government control, it will force us to make decisions which General Emile Lahhud, the new commander in chief, will be forced to implement to end the misappropriation of power."

If there is a military operation, the men of the five Lebanese army brigades which are outside the "Christian area" would intervene supported by Syrian artillery which since Tuesday has concentrated vast resources, mainly tanks, on the lines facing B'abda. The assistance of this artillery would be "officially" requested by the Lebanese Government.

Of the 20,000 men of the Lebanese army outside the "Christian area," it is estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 men—gathered together over the past few days by the new commander in chief who drew them from the different brigades deployed in the north, the al-Biqa', West Beirut, or the south—are capable of going into action in addition to any aid which Gen Lahhud may have been able to obtain from inside the "Christian area," which is at present very difficult to assess.

No Military Action, But...

These brigades, less well equipped and less well trained than the 15,000 men which Gen 'Awn theoretically has, received equipment from Syria, including around 30 tanks, during the "liberation war." It is also being said that the Druze and Shiite militia have received official orders not to participate in the thrust to avoid any possibility of a high-risk operation getting out of control.

President al-Hirawi, who still hopes that a peaceful solution can be found, nonetheless has stated: "I told all the ambassadors and intermediaries very frankly that there would be no military action against East Beirut (Christian), but if the results of the negotiations are negative, I will be obliged to take action against B'abda."

Can the al-Ta'if agreement, regarded by Gen 'Awn as "an act of surrender," be changed? "Some local intermediaries," Mr al-Hirawi explained, "are asking me to make changes on the question of the Syrian withdrawal, and I tell them that this is due to start 2 years after the formation of a government of national unity and the amendment of some articles of the Constitution. The present events in East Beirut are delaying the al-Ta'if agreement and Mr 'Awn is preventing the withdrawal of the Syrian troops. I wonder whether he wants the partiiion of Lebanon, which we reject at local, Arab, and international levels. If we end what is happening in East Beirut and agree in the cabinet to dissolve all militias, the 2 years could become 1 year or a little longer."

Although President al-Hirawi is aware of the stakes and the risks, he says he is "prepared to make the decision" to launch a military operation to end Gen 'Awn's "rebellion" and to prevent the creation of a "Christian district," which could lead to similar demands from the other communities and risk the breakup Lebanon. "All ministers, particularly Christian ministers, were warned of this eventuality when they agreed to enter the government."

Promises To Rule 'Soon' From B'abda

NC0612073389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that he gives those conducting mediation efforts and good offices a period of 1 to 2 weeks to achieve positive results because legitimacy is indivisible. The president emphasized that the legitimate authority will resort to the legitimate means it possesses against the usurpers of authority.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR, President al-Hirawi declared that he and the cabinet will soon rule from the B'abda Palace and that only the legitimacy that he represents will be in power. President al-Hirawi disclosed that he was contacted twice by Minister of Telecommunications George Sa'adah, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia. He said he instructed Sa'adah to carry out an official mission to inform the Arab tripartite committee members and Saudi officials on the Lebanese situation and on the means which the Lebanese legitimate authority will use against the usurpers of authority.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin affirmed that the situation in Lebanon cannot continue indefinitely, adding that should the current efforts by various sides, including France, fail, President Ilyas al-Hirawi would be compelled to resort to a military solution to end the anomalous situation in the eastern area and expel 'Awn from the presidential palace.

Lahhud Insists on Commanding From Al-Yarzah

NC0312183789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] People who visited army commander General Emile Lahhud have quoted him to AL-SIHAFIYAH news agency as saying that he will not be the commander of part of the army, and that he refuses to command the army from outside al-Yarzah [the army command and Defense Ministry headquarters in the eastern area], even for a short period.

In another report, the agency said that Brigadier General Nayif Kallas has joined the army barracks in Riyaq after having left the eastern area 5 days ago in his private car with two bodyguards. In a first interview with Brig Gen Kallas, which the agency conducted over the telephone, he said: I expect that the Lebanese problem will be solved by peaceful means. The sole legitimacy is that of President al-Hirawi, Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister al-Huss. It is the lawful legitimacy which is internationally recognized. Brig Gen Kallas said: If peaceful means meet obstacles, the last treatment would be a cauterization. There is much confusion in the army in the eastern area, and I think a large number of officers and soldiers will do what I did.

Al-Huss on 'Peaceful' Means To Confront 'Awn

NC0312112389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has emphasized that the 'Awn-led rebellion will lead to the Cypriotization and partition of Lebanon. He said: The Michel 'Awn phenomenon is nothing more than a rebellion against the legitimate authority seeking to Cypriotize and then partition Lebanon. Going along with or appeasing this phenomenon will only encourage rebellion everywhere in Lebanon. Therefore, we have no choice but to fight this phenomenon with all legitimate means at our disposal. We on principle rule out violent means to fight this partitionist plan and insist on using peaceful political means, because we believe that this is demanded by our cause of uniting Lebanon. Unity cannot be achieved by violence; it can only be achieved by accord.

Dr al-Huss also affirmed that the al-Ta'if agreement is a reconciliatory plan, adding that whoever discredits it offers no substitute. He said: Although we are eager not to return to the atmosphere of the destructive war, we do not forget the hard lesson we learned from the experiences of the bitter crisis; namely, that calm cannot become peace unless it is coupled with reconciliatory political solutions to the crisis. Many wars erupted in Lebanon without being declared by anyone. Wars in Lebanon are hardly ever declared; often they just erupt. He added: Although we are confident of our choice for peace, we cannot guarantee the decision of others. Nobody can predict the future actions of a person who did not hesitate to kindle a destructive war on 14 March, especially as he continues to raise the war of liberation slogan despite the cease-fire, which should put a halt to the implementation of this slogan.

Dr al-Huss added: Vis-a-vis the dangers threatening Lebanon's unity and existence because of 'Awn's partitionist plan, we have no alternative but to confront this plan by all peaceful political means available to the

legitimate authority. The solution process may take a short time or a long time, but what concerns us is to take the shortest path so as to achieve the goal as soon as possible. We shall not capitulate and thus we will enable Lebanon to triumph and regain its unity.

[Beirut Voice of National Resistance at 1030 GMT on 3 December in a report on Al-Huss' statements notes that they were made during an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

Al-Huss Postpones Meeting With Italian Envoy

Refuses To Receive Mancini

NC0212074289 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] In a statement to the Voice of America this morning, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss described General Michel 'Awn as a rebel officer. He said that the Arab League's al-Ta'if agreement is the only course for saving Lebanon from the ongoing war. Prime Minister al-Huss added that the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, both Christians and Muslims, support the Arab peace plan.

In another development, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss declined to receive Italian Ambassador Antonio Mancini as scheduled today because the ambassador visited Gen 'Awn yesterday. The visit came in violation of the Foreign Ministry circular to diplomatic missions asking them to refrain from visiting or meeting any illegitimate quarters.

Decides To Meet Mancini 4 Dec

NC0312093289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss will meet with Italian Ambassador Antonio Mancini tomorrow afternoon. Ambassador Mancini has informed Government House officials that he had not read the directive issued by the Foreign Ministry about visits by ambassadors to those who have no legitimate authority.

Dr al-Huss declined to receive Ambassador Mancini yesterday because the latter had visited 'Awn in B'abda Palace.

Reviews Situation With Italian

NC0412104589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is now meeting with Italian Ambassador Antonio Mancini to discuss recent developments. Dr al-Huss earlier had received Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha for the same purpose.

Commenting after the meeting, Kolotusha said: Everyone knows that the situation in Lebanon recently entered a very critical stage. The al-Ta'if agreement and the national accord in Lebanon are now threatened. Therefore, it was natural that the Soviet and U.S. leaderships should pay particular attention to the Lebanese issue and to how the political process in Lebanon can be supported so as to strengthen the Lebanese legitimacy represented in the president and the national accord government and unify the country.

Answering a question on practical U.S.-Soviet steps regarding Lebanon, Kolotusha said: My understanding of the Bush-Gorbachev press conference yesterday is that there is an agreement to study practical steps which would help ease the Lebanese situation on the basis of support for the al-Ta'if agreement and the constitutional institutions in Lebanon.

Government Said To Be Capable of Ending Crisis

NC0512153489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Finance Minister Dr 'Ali al-Khalil has said that the legitimate government possesses all the diplomatic, political, legal, and financial means needed to enable the legitimate regular military forces to end the existing abnormal situation. He said that the entire world and the international, regional, and Arab forces support the legitimate authority's position. There is no disagreement on its right to use all available means to achieve its goals, Minister al-Khalil said.

'All Means' Will Be Used To End Rebellion

NC0112200989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this afternoon received Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul and 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon.

After the 1-hour meeting, Minister Dallul said: We discussed some developments. We listened to what his excellency the president had to say regarding the imposition of authority over Lebanese territory and restoration of detached institutions.

Asked how he thinks the imposition of authority will take place, he replied: There are many mediations and contacts in this regard. If no solution is reached, we will use all means. There is a rebellion attempt in a certain area which cannot be ignored, and there is a sort of partition. Either we are for partition or against it. If the problem is solved by peaceful means, so let it be. Otherwise, other means must be used to bring back a kidnapped people.

Asked about the French intervention, he said: We denounce this intervention and regard it as intervention in the internal affairs of Lebanon. It was denounced even by the French foreign minister.

Asked whether the mediation has any specific time, he said: Not more than a few days.

Asked whether these mediations call for optimism, he said: God willing.

'Abdallah al-Amin said: I do not think that the Lebanese legitimacy has many options. It has one option, which is the unity of the homeland. If at any moment it agrees to keep silent about a rebellion in any area, this means that it has disavowed unity. Whoever disavows sovereignty and unity will not be legitimate. There is one option, which is a solution by whatever means it deems appropriate and with the speed it deems necessary. This is because time is not in favor of the legitimacy and unity.

Asked whether a decision will be made within hours or days, he said: This will be specified by the cabinet. But the options are many.

Asked whether he sensed that there is readiness for a military action, he said: His excellency the president is making every effort to resolve this matter by means which would spare the innocent people in the eastern area and elsewhere the consequences of the current rebellion. These efforts must be completed, and then action will be taken.

Asked whether a solution will take a long time, he said: This matter pertains to the soldiers.

Ba'th Party Leader Rules Out Military Solution

NC0112172589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, affirmed that there will be no military solution. There is an officer who is rebelling against the homeland, legitimacy, and peace, and he must be terminated as a prelude to peace. He said that the time of war has ended. We in the eastern and western areas must unify the homeland and establish a firm and just peace in all parts of Lebanon.

Addressing the leaders in the eastern area, Al-Amin said: Our hand is extended for peace and not for war. Our hand is open for reconciliation, which is the real approach to peace. He noted that they have a duty to the people and children being held around the B'abda Palace to save them from this situation.

The regional command of the Ba'th Party Organization held an extraordinary meeting today under 'Abdallah al-Amin and discussed the current situation.

French MP's Comment After Meeting With 'Awn

NC0212152789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] For the fifth successive day, the general strike and the sit-in are continuing at B'abda Palace.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn received a French parliamentary delegation composed of 10 deputies.

After the meeting, a French MP [member of parliament] pointed out that the visit was designed to reiterate that Lebanon will endure. She said: We are here to defend together national, cultural, and social rights, as well as freedom and human rights.

Another MP said: It is impermissible for Lebanon to stand still. Let the French and the Europeans realize that there is a popular will which seeks a dignified life, he said.

Maronite Order Chief Sees Al-Hirawi, Comments

NC0112112689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Abbot Basil al-Hashim, head of the Maronite monastic order, in Ablah at approximately 1000 this morning.

After the meeting, Al-Hashim said: I had the honor of visiting his excellency the president. Following the visit, I have the impression that a military solution will not resolve national issues. Rejection of dialogue will only obstruct and delay solutions. Therefore, we are very hopeful that all officials will see that the dialogue will lead to a solution safeguarding the unity of Lebanon and unity and dignity of all the citizens.

Abbot al-Hashim was asked: Did you sense a response by the general ['Awn]? He answered: I do not believe that there is a single responsible Lebanese person who rejects dialogue. The existing barriers are the stumbling block delaying the dialogue. I am very hopeful that wisdom will prevail and that solutions will be found to save Lebanon.

On the possibility of a dialogue, the abbot said: No one rejects the holding of a dialogue to ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and dignity.

Al-Hashim was asked: Does a solution require any amendments to the al-Ta'if agreement? He answered: The al-Ta'if agreement is not divine. It is not a Koran. All internal and external forces are doing all they can to benefit Lebanon and serve its interests.

Phalangist Official on Need for Flexible Stand

NC0412195689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau and Consultative and Central Councils held a meeting chaired by Lawyer Munir al-Haj, the party's deputy leader, today and discussed the situation in Lebanon.

During the meeting, al-Haj said: We must not continue to cling to hard-line stands. We must differentiate between what is fundamental and cannot be renounced, and acceptable political ways out. He asserted that Dr George Sa'adah's current tour is important at this stage, but does not preclude the need for us to move at home

toward everything that is conducive to a solution and to adopt flexible stands to minimize losses as much as possible.

Al-Haj described the results of the summit of the two superpower leaders as an indication of the existence of an international decision to help Lebanon find a way out of its present situation and bolster the peace process. He reiterated that the al-Ta'if document is a peace plan and not a war plan and was born in peaceful international circumstances.

He stated that the Malta meeting confirmed that the peaceful development in the Middle East issue has made good progress, adding: On this basis, we believe that it has become permissible for Lebanon to find peace, security, and sovereignty, even if in stages, because the Lebanese issue was created to absorb the problems of the region. Therefore, we must take advantage of all these developments, especially since we have proof that the guarantees that have been given for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon are now linked with the circumstances that call for the withdrawal of these armies from Lebanon. This is sufficient to embark on a political solution divorced from all forms of violence.

Phalangist Official Reviews 'Awn's TV Interview

NC0512160989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Lawyer Munir al-Haj, Phalangist Party deputy leader, has commented on General Michel 'Awn's interview with a U.S. television network. He said the interview represents an important development in Gen 'Awn's view of relations with Syria. Al-Haj described 'Awn's interview as constituting a positive development, because it is a contribution to the flexibility of stands which we have repeatedly regarded as necessary at this particular stage.

As for its content, Al-Haj added, the interview went beyond the Syrian demands, which the al-Ta'if settlement limited to fraternal relations and agreements which would preserve the interests of both countries. In this agreement, Syria did not demand that its vital interests in Lebanon be safeguarded, or claim that the Syrian Army should remain in the country on the pretext of safeguarding these interests.

Al-Haj said that showing flexibility in dealing with Damascus should not go beyond what is actually needed to reassure Syria and encourage it to act positively in connection with the Lebanese issue.

Sfayr Receives Kolotusha, Studies Soviet Stand

NC0512120789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr received Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha today.

Ambassador Kolotusha said that the Soviet Union's stand on the current phase in Lebanon's situation leaves nothing to be desired. He added: We have supported strongly and enthusiastically the al-Ta'if agreement and welcomed the national accord process which has started on the basis of this agreement. We have also welcomed the revival of the constitutional institutions, the election of a president of the republic, and the formation of the national accord government.

Regarding the popular support for Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, Kolotusha said: I believe that mass demonstrations could possibly be organized in any Lebanese area in support of a particular slogan which is close to the hearts of the people in that area. If popular marches are staged in the south or al-Biqa' in support of some slogans, then the mass demonstrations would be as large as those in the B'abda Palace.

Asked about the extent of support for the al-Ta'if agreement, Kolotusha said: The Arab troika and the international community are committed to this agreement.

Asked if the Lebanese people are also committed to al-Ta'if agreement, he said: I cannot say that all the Lebanese people are committed to the al-Ta'if agreement. But this agreement is the common denominator around which various political forces and sects could come together.

Asked if he supports changes in al-Ta'if agreement, he said: We fear that if this is raised, then the situation would revert to tragedies that have afflicted the Lebanese people in the past.

Ja'ja' Says Military Balance 'Not in Our Favor'

NC0412131489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] During a meeting with a delegation of the graduates of the Information College today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' stressed that the current crisis of looming military confrontation is very grave. Therefore, we are preparing ourselves because if it happens there will be no time for talking. At the same time, Dr Ja'ja' said, everything must be done to avoid a military confrontation. At present the military balance is not in our favor, but we can do a lot with politics and perhaps avert a military confrontation completely.

Dr Ja'ja' believes that there is a race between a military solution and a political solution. He said events are developing so quickly that changes are taking place by the hour and not by the day.

Ja'ja' Contends 1943 Formula Must Be Rejected

NC0412213689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Addressing delegations that visited him today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' said that the defense of Lebanon can be undertaken by rejecting

the 1943 formula forever, as Bashir al-Jumayyil, the first commander of the Lebanese Forces, said.

Dr Ja'ja' added: We can defend Lebanon if we know how to structure and unify it and find a formula for it that respects all its sons and groups. He reiterated that the defense of Lebanon cannot be ensured by military preparations alone.

Dr Ja'ja' said: Anyone who believes that the Lebanese Forces are an isolated body in this society is mistaken. The Lebanese Forces comprise every person in this society. We are carrying the message for all of Lebanon at present; our compatriots in the other areas cannot carry it because of the circumstances they are experiencing. By preserving the eastern area, we are preserving all of Lebanon and all communities.

Syrian Officer Killed; Units Redeploy in Beirut

NC0412194089 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] There was renewed tension along the contact lines in the Lebanese capital and its Southern Suburb yesterday afternoon. Our correspondent in Beirut has reported that sporadic clashes and skirmishes occurred between the Islamic, Lebanese nationalist, and Syrian forces on one side and Michel 'Awn's Maronite forces on the other. According to our correspondent, a Syrian Army captain was killed when 'Awn's forces directed their fire at a residential neighborhood in the Southern Suburb. A violent battle, in which mortars and machineguns were employed, followed this officer's death.

Meanwhile, after recent ultimatums concerning the use of military power to remove Michel 'Awn, the Syrian forces continued to redeploy units along the entire length of the contact lines in Beirut's Southern Suburb. Large numbers of tanks, armored vehicles, and other military hardware were stationed west of the confrontation line.

At the same time, following the numerous desertions among 'Awn's forces by people wishing to join the legal Lebanese army, Islamic and Lebanese nationalist militias have withdrawn some distance from the battle lines in certain areas to give these deserters the opportunity to move from the eastern to the western sector of the capital, where the legal government is located.

Complaint Against Israel Submitted to UN

NC0512193589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 1989

[Text] Ambassador Shawqi al-Shuwayri, charge d'affaires of the permanent Lebanese mission to the UN, has noted that Lebanon submitted a complaint against Israel today to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in which it demanded an end to Israeli acts of aggression against al-Nabatiyah and the neighboring villages. The charge d'affaires added that he had contacted the head of the Arab group and the Arab League representative at the United Nations about drawing up a plan of action in connection with raising this issue. He explained that he will ask this month's president of the UN Security Council and Perez de Cuellar's assistant for meetings with the representatives of the council's five permanent members, particularly the U.S. representative, so that practical results may be reached in this regard.

Islamic Resistance Shells Israeli Settlement

NC0512123889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Islamic Resistance men fired katyusha rockets at the Metulla settlement in occupied Palestine this morning. They also fired seven katyusha rockets at enemy vehicles in a parking lot in the Marj 'Uyun area. The enemy radio admitted the shelling but it did not mention, as usual, any casualties.

The resistance operations room in the south issued a statement today saying: In implementation of Minister Nabih Birri's instructions to shell the depth of the Zionist entity if the enemy continues to shell villages in the south and al-Nabatiyah, the resistance artillery shelled specific targets deep inside occupied Palestinian territory on Monday night and Tuesday morning, scoring direct hits.

The statement adds: The resistance's reply will be very harsh if the enemy repeats its savage attacks on villages in the south.

In another development, a responsible media official in the Amal Movement has denied the rumors by some radios about clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in al-Nabatiyah. It considers this a distorted report aimed at covering up the massacres resulting from the treacherous Israeli shelling, causing confusion, and stirring sedition.

Amal Claims Responsibilty for Blasts in South

NC0512192189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The operations room of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal issued the following statement this evening: In retaliation for the cowardly shelling which the artillery of the Zionist Nazi forces and their agents carried out against our peaceful kinfolk in our struggling Jabal 'Amil villages, and in accordance with orders issued by the movement's command, one of the groups of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal from the unit of martyrs Abu-Zaynab, Samid, and Abu-Rabi' detonated a highly explosive charge at 1330 today on the (al-Kassarah) road, near the Kafr Tibnit crossing point. A Zionist enemy patrol consisting of a tank and infantrymen was passing at the time. The explosion inflicted heavy losses among the patrol members.

Meanwhile, a second group of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal detonated an explosive charge near an agent militia patrol on the al-'Udaysah-Marj 'Uyun road, damaging an armored troop carrier and killing or

injuring its passengers. Subsequently, the enemy raked the adjacent area with gunfire. The fighters of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal returned safely to base.

It should be noted that 17 people were injured today as a result of the latest Israeli acts of aggression on land and from the air against various areas in the south. Seven of these were injured in an Israeli raid on Majdalyun.

Syrian Forces Dispatched to Mashgharah Areas

NC0512160189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The Syrian Arab forces have deployed in the Mashgharah areas which were the scene of clashes yesterday between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

The security committee has held a meeting in al-Biqa' to study ways to extend the deployment plan so that it covers the various areas where the clashes took place.

Hizballah Tightens Control of Western Al-Biqa'

NC0512211989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Hizballah has continued to storm houses in Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Mashgharah in western al-Biqa' in an attempt to expel Amal members after these villages, with the exception of one quarter in Mashgharah, came under its control.

The clashes in western al-Biqa' stopped at midday after Hizballah tightened its control over the area following clashes in which over 50 people were killed or wounded.

According to reports received by our radio, tension is high in the village of Libbaya. Hizballah has brought reinforcements from Ba'labakk, while Amal has fortified its forward positions.

[Paris AFP in English in a Mashgharah-datelined report at 1729 GMT says: "Syrian officers and an Iranian Embassy delegation from Beirut travelled to this southeastern Lebanese town to oversee an end to the latest confrontations between Amal and Hizballah, who for the last two years have fought for influence over the country's Shiite community.

"The Syrian army, deployed in the area since 1986, intervened early Tuesday as Hizballah units were trying to take an Amal barracks on the outskirts of Mashgharah, the pro-Syrian militia's last stronghold in the region.

"Twenty Syrian soldiers entered the barracks, where some 40 Amal fighters were holding out, and put an end to the fighting, correspondents said."]

Hizballah Official on Recent Fighting With Amal

NC0512145089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General [Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli] has commented on the regretable incidents in western al-Biqa' that involved clashes between gunmen from the party and the Amal Movement. He said these bloody clashes sadden us deeply at a time when the Zionist enemies are trying to intensify their attacks and bombard civilian-inhabited villages, and while political Maronism, in its turn, is trying to gather its squandered powers and mobilize its Christian malevolence against Muslims, patriots, and their allies.

He added that our sadness can be cured only by removing the spirit of mutual hatred prevailing among Amal and Hizballah members. He stressed that the leaders of both should seriously consider ways to establish a stable coexistance, the foundations of which have been laid down by the Damascus agreement. The leaders of the two sides should thoroughly follow up the full implementation, rather than the seasonal implementation, of that agreement.

He emphasized that the leaderships of both sides must strike with an iron fist against anyone who disturbs peace, whoever he may be.

Fadlallah Criticizes U.S., French Intervention

NC0112194789 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a prominent Lebanese religious scholar, criticized the blatant U.S. and French intervention in Lebanon. In his Friday sermon in the Imam al-Rida Mosque in the Southern Suburb of Beirut, he said that Washington wants the kind of security which is coupled with a political conflict in Lebanon, so that it can use the Lebanese arena for passing political solutions in the region.

Addressing Muslims and Christians, his eminence advised them not to rely much on the U.S. and French roles in Lebanon, because all they care about is their own interests. Therefore, we should not allow them to exploit us and use us as a tool to realize their own objectives and ambitions.

Fadlallah commended the uprising of the prisoners who are being held in the Zionist al-Khiyam prison. He said that the ugliest and most horrific forms of torture are being used against prisoners in that camp. He said that all this is taking place under the eyes of America, which claims to defend human rights.

Fadlallah on Future Prospects, U.S. Policy

NC0412134189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has announced that he does not believe that the Lebanese

situation will settle down on a stable foundation or reach a point conducive to a happy ending for the al-Ta'if agreement. He expressed fear that the rapid pace of developments in the Lebanese crisis carries within it the seeds of a new phase of the Lebanese crisis, that of a complicated al-Tai'f agreement.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-NAHAR published today, Fadlallah said: I rule out a decisive military confrontation, at least for the time being.

'Allamah Fadlallah added: I fear that the United States is still playing its double game by opening the way for a certain constitutional situation that will enable the international community to extricate itself from political pitfalls in its relations with Lebanon and allow the current fait accompli, which is susceptible to more than one problem and to sedition, to continue. He said the United States wants to benefit from this fait accompli by setting in motion some acute issues in Lebanon with the aim of exploiting them for the Palestinian-Israeli issue or some other regional Arab issue.

Shams-al-Din Criticizes France, Vatican Circles

NC3011113289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 NOV 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has noted that the rebellion is continuing. The rebellion does not come from a vacuum, he asserted, but depends on an international factor represented in the French stand and that of some circles in the Vatican, regional factors represented mainly by the Israeli stand, and a local factor represented in the stands of some Maronite leaders and Maronite Church circles.

At a press conference he held this morning, Shaykh Shams-al-Din said: France, both the government and the opposition, and certain circles within the Vatican oppose the results of the al-Ta'if conference. He described the arrival of some French deputies in Lebanon as an impudent infiltration designed to support the military rebellion against the Lebanese people. He pointed out that the French fleet's movement is in support of the rebellion, saying that the French are working with Israel to oppose the Lebanese people and government. Shams-al-Din added that the sequence of events is pushing the situation in a very dangerous direction, threatening not only Lebanon but the entire region.

Shaykh Sha'ban Denounces French Intervention

NC0112195189 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement in Lebanon, criticized the new French intervention in Lebanon. He called on citizens to stand fast against that French aggression.

Speaking during Friday prayers in Tripoli today, Sha'ban said that Arab regimes are the only way to confront the Zionist and Maronite threats. He asserted that Islam is the only power which can deter atheism and all its armies. He said Islam can conquer France and prove its existence inside America.

Shaykh Sha'ban condemned al-Ta'if conference, saying that the agreement resulting from it aims only to partition Lebanon and consecrate the Christian hegemony. He said that the traitor Arab rulers are concerned only with serving U.S., European, and Zionist objectives and policies.

Commenting on the forthcoming superpower summit, Shaykh Sha'ban said this summit bears evidence to the failure of communism. He said the Marxist orientation toward capitalism will not lead to the desired solution, becasue the capitalist system itself is threatened with failure.

Birri Claims France Supports Division of Power

NC0112150289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Minister of Hydroelectric Resources Nabih Birri has announced that Lebanon's unity is being tested. He described reports about a French plan for Lebanon as an attempt to return the Lebanese situation to square one. He said this plan is an implicit submission to the division of power between the legitimate and illegitimate authorities.

At a press conference today, Birri said President Ilyas al-Hirawi's stand is a good and decisive one. He called for responding to that stand so that we can reach the safe haven. This can only be done by uniting East and West Beirut, he remarked.

Birri said that what is going on in East Beirut is a real utilization of the international situation. He added: We are against fighting and against firing a single bullet. However, he said, we will not let the coup de grace be fired against Lebanon's unity.

Commenting on the Lebanese Forces stand, Minister Birri said: They have remained silent for years and come out with vile remarks. Though different from that of 'Awn, their stand will eventually serve 'Awn.

Amal Criticizes French Policy on Lebanon

NC0612070589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The Amal Movement command in the south issued a statement yesterday condemning France's positions, describing them as hostile to the Lebanese people, particularly the renewed attempt to flex France's muscles with the movement of warships.

The command stressed that the positions of some French parliamentarians—people who work for the new crusade and are linked to the Israeli intelligence organ, the Mosad, and whose actions are a blatant challenge to all

the Lebanese—prove yet again that France has not learned from past experience of its erroneous policy of dealing with Lebanon and its people. It added that this policy constitutes a stand against the unity of Lebanon and its sons and against continued co-existence. This is because this stand supports a minority that is plotting against the fate of the homeland and is trying to establish a sectarian racist regime that will serve as a lackey for the Zionist entity.

Junblatt Urges 'Awn's Removal, Assails France

NC0412144989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] This has been another day of official vacillation and inactivity vis-a-vis the grave peril threatening the homeland's destiny and unity, and the destiny and future of its citizens. The tripartite ministerial committee is discussing the current situation, while the arousal of primitive sentiments continues in the eastern area. The various parties of the eastern area are competing in the race to achieve influence and assume positions of command without essentially affecting the scheme for partition, dispersal, and fragmentation. This is true even if the rebellious officer Michel 'Awn is occuping part of the limelight.

Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has again renewed his warnings in connection with this phenomenon. He has urged that Michel 'Awn be removed. In an interview with the French newspaper LIBERATION, he announced: I believe that no settlement or future for this country can be secured while the 'Awn phenomenon persists. He said he believes that there is not much time left, indeed that it is almost too late already.

Junblatt criticized French policy and said that, in supporting 'Awn, Paris is playing with fire in a serious manner. He pointed out that there is a French-Israeli alliance to partition Lebanon and establish a Christian state.

Junblatt Declares Military Operation Needed

NC0612072689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has said that a military operation is undoubtedly needed to expel General Michel 'Awn from the B'abda palace and install President Ilyas al-Hirawi in it.

In an interview with the French paper LE FIGARO, he said that the issue would not involve a large-scale operation against the Christian area in general and would not lead to the deployment of Syrian forces in the Christian pocket. He added that this operation could be carried out within 1 or 2 weeks when what he termed the carnival around the B'abda Palace ends. Here, he was referring to the sit-in staged by citizens around the palace for more than 1 week now.

Junblatt also accused France of playing a double game in Lebanon by recognizing the new president on one hand, and yet continuing to support Gen 'Awn on the other.

He expressed fear that Christian fundamentalism could surpass Muslim fundamentalism. He said that the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon would basically benefit Muslim fundamentalists in Hizballah and the Palestinians.

Iranian Envoy Says Lebanon Seen as Part of Iran

NC0412080789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, has stressed that Iranian officials regard Lebanon, especially the Islamic area of it, as part of the Islamic Republic. At a celebration to mark the birthday of Imam Zayn al-'Abidin and the completion of the Imam Sadiq Mosque in (al-Hillaniyah) village, the ambassador said: This area is regarded as a province of the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic is duty-bound to help the believers and oppressed all over the world, especially in Lebanon. He noted that the Islamic Republic participated in the building of the mosque.

Syria To Set Up New Palestinian Organization

NC0512213489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Palestinian sources have accused the Syrian forces in Lebanon of training Palestinian elements from the [Palestinian refugee] camps in Beirut and recruiting them to work in Syria's interest. The Syrian forces intend to group these elements within a separate organization that would be loyal to Syria and would stand against the pro-'Arafat organizations. This organization will be financed and equipped from the budget and with the materiel of the Syrian forces.

The Palestinian sources noted that the Syrian forces have held consultations with the Amal Movement to persuade it to cooperate with the new Palestinian organization.

Al-Zu'bi Attends Public Economic Sector Meeting

JN0412213989 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] A seminar on the development and improvement of work methods in the administration of the public economy sector organized by the General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU] in cooperation with the Prime Ministry resumed its sessions this morning at the union headquarters in the presence of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member and GFTU head; the deputy prime minister for service affairs; and a number of ministers. The session was also attended by comrade members of the GFTU executive office; general managers of the public sector institutions, companies, and factories; heads of labor offices of the party branches' headquarters; heads of the professional unions; heads and members of the executive bureaus of world federations and unions in the country's provinces; and heads and members of the production and administration councils in the public sector.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi clarified a number of issues that were the subject of discussion by those participating in the seminar. He affirmed that the weaving industry has achieved a good level in the export of its products. Numerous meetings were held on ways to develop this industry and handle the issue of distribution of labor. He also asserted that the goal is to increase quantity while retaining good quality. He stated that the Ministry of Electricity can study subjects concerning the structure of organizational administration and make decisions based on this study leading to the development of electricity plants and institutions.

The prime minister discussed the construction sector. He stated that the general construction companies take care of all construction work in the country and that there is not a single foreign company working in this field. He also noted the size of the tasks commissioned to public construction companies which require large subsidies, especially since these companies have begun moving toward expanding their market beyond Syria.

Al-Zu'bi clarified that the exercise of power by the general administration of companies and production institutions requires more focus on confronting production issues, bearing responsibility, and constantly taking the initiative.

The prime minister also touched on a number of subjects that were topics of discussion at the seminar.

At the morning session, a number of the general managers and trade union heads discussed the reality of work and production in the public sector, the appropriate means to develop administrative and productive work, and the difficulties facing the progress of work and production. They acknowledged the concern of the working class and its unionist organizations to continue the struggle to exploit available resources, depend on locally available resources, encourage group and individual initiatives, and continue the production of spare parts.

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC Delegation

Received by Al-Zu'bi

JN0512132089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this evening received a delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] led by Han Kehua, CPPCC Standing Committee member and CPPCC Foreign Affairs Committee vice chairman.

The meeting was attended by Fayiz Isma'il, member of the National Progressive Front Central Command.

At the beginning of the meeting, the delegation head conveyed the greetings of the PRC State Council premier to al-Zu'bi, who asked him to relay similar greetings to the PRC State Council premier.

Al-Zu'bi welcomed the members of the PRC delegation and underlined the strong ties binding Syria to the PRC—ties based on strong ties of friendship. He also stressed the importance of cementing these ties between the two friendly states in all spheres, considering the two countries' firm friendship, common interests, mutual respect, as well as the common stands taken by the two countries against the forces of hegemony and domination in the world.

The PRC delegation head expressed his country's constant support for Syria and the just Arab causes. He also voiced his admiration for the economic and social progress being made by Syria, affirming his country's desire to develop the ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the PRC in all domains.

The talks also dealt with a number of issues of common interest.

Meets People's Assembly Speaker

JN0512152089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning received the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] delegation led by Han Kehua, CPPCC Standing Committee member and CPPCC Foreign Affairs Committee vice chairman.

The meeting was attended by Fa'iz Isma'il, member of the National Progressive Front's Central Command; Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly; and the PRC ambassador in Damascus.

The People's Assembly speaker delivered a speech in which he welcomed the visiting delegation and wished

them a successful visit to Syria. He praised China's positions of support for the just Arab causes. In his speech, Qaddurah highlighted the strength and depth of bilateral relations, the importance of exchanging visits—especially parliamentary ones—and cooperation and coordination in all fields between the two friendly countries.

The People's Assembly speaker then explained the most important current issues, especially those of the Arab region, the positions taken on them, and Syria's determination under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to continue to oppose imperialist and Zionist challenges so that the Arab nation can reach its goals of liberation, construction, and progress.

Han Kehua expressed in a speech his and his delegation's happiness to be visiting Syria and their impressions of the civilized and progressive achievements they had seen in various fields in Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al- Asad

Han praised Syria's clear positions of support for and understanding of the Chinese people's causes. He reaffirmed the value of the advanced relations between the two friendly countries in serving their joint interests.

Han then discussed China and its social and economic issues, democratic institutions, and socialist experience. He reiterated China's firm policy that strongly supports the just Arab causes and the Arab struggle for regaining their rights and usurped lands in Palestine and all the occupied territories.

Received by Al-Ahmar

JN0612085589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening received the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] delegation led by Han Kehua, CPPCC Standing Committee member and CPPCC Foreign Affairs Committee vice chairman.

The meeting was attended by Fayiz Isma'il, National Progressive Front Central Command member, and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on the growing relations between the Ba'th Party and the Communist Party of China and also between the two friendly countries, Syria and China, as well as the circumstances under which the construction process is taking place in the two friendly countries.

The talks also centered on the most prominent developments in the Arab region in general and in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas in particular. Commenting on Lebanon, Comrade al-Ahmar stressed Syria's commitment to supporting the Lebanese brothers and assisting the Lebanese legitimacy to reunite the constitutional institutions and remove the obstacles facing them, start the march of accord represented in the al-Ta'if agreement, elect a president, form an accord government to reunite Lebanon—land, people, and institutions—and put an end to the phenomenon of the rebellion being implemented by 'Awn.

Comrade al-Ahmar also stressed Syria's commitment to supporting the Palestinian Arab people to enable them to regain their inalienable and legitimate rights—including their right to repatriation, self-determination, the establishment of their state on their national soil—and the continuation of their struggle to establish a just and comprehensive peace in our region through a UN-sponsored international conference in order to regain the Arab territories occupied in 1967 as well as the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people. He also affirmed that the intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people epitomizes this struggle, the adherence to the Arab rights, and nonrelinquishment of these rights. He said: Supporting and continuing the intifadah are a basis for regaining Arab rights.

On his part, Comrade Han Kehua expressed his positive impression of his visit to Syria and of the successes and profound changes that have occured in various areas under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Republic. He stressed his country's support for the Arab struggle and cause and its support for Syria in its continuous struggle to defend its independence and development. He then condemned Israel's brutality represented in the destruction of al-Qunaytirah and in Israel's repressive practices against the Palestinian intifadah. He also expressed appreciation and support for the positive Syrian Arab role in helping Lebanon's people and in confronting Israel's aggression. He then wished the Syrian Arab people more progress and prosperity.

Afghanistan

State Security Forces Foil Coup Attempt in Kabul

BK0512122689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 5 (AFP)—Afghan authorities have foiled a pro-resistance armed coup to overthrow the government of President Najibullah, the state-run BAKHTAR news agency monitored here reported Tuesday [5 December].

"An anti-state plot ... aimed at disrupting the people's normal life in the capital was detected in time and foiled by the organs of the ministry of state security," the official Afghan news agency said.

More than 100 "activists" have so far been arrested and would face trial in a special court. They would be subject to punishment under the laws on national security, it said.

The perpetrators of the plot also wanted to create disorder in crowded places, BAKHTAR said.

Further on Coup Bid

BK0512125489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Dec 5 (AFP)—Afghan authorities have foiled a plot jointly organised by the resistance and some ranks in the armed forces to overthrow President Najibullah, the state-run BAKHTAR news agency monitored here reported Tuesday. [passage omitted]

The plotters, who included members of the armed forces and some civilian officials, had planned to assassinate political and social leaders and to carry out sabotage in military units, the report said. [passage omitted]

It gave no date for the planned coup, which it said was organised by the "secret network" of Pakistan-based fundamentalist Moslem guerrilla leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar.

Western diplomats generally offered no comments on the reports, though some doubted their veracity, saying they had been given unusual publicity.

Afghan observers in Pakistan, however, suspected the report could be a pretext to launching a possible crackdown on disgruntled elements in the forces.

BAKHTAR said the security authorities had asked those involved in the plot to turn themselves in. If they surrendered voluntarily they would not be subjected to judicial prosecution, "otherwise the security forces will arrest them as well," the report said.

Mr. Hekmatyar, the radical chief of a faction of the Hezb-e Eslami movement, has often voiced support for an internal coup by the pro-resistance troops in the Afghan Army as a solution to end the stalemate as the pro-Soviet Kabul government continues to refuse demands from the mujahidin to step down.

'Abdul Karim Mohajizad, a spokesman for Mr. Hekmatyar, rejected the BAKHTAR agency report of a coup attempt as "false propaganda aimed at boosting the morale of troops who are demoralised due to guerrilla activities."

However, Mr. Mohajizad acknowledged that "our men are working secretly" in Kabul and were seeking to "topple the Kabul regime with the help of non-communist elements in the Afghan Army and the ruling party dissidents." But he said that "none of our activists has been captured in Kabul."

He also contradicted the official Afghan report that over 100 people linked to the alleged coup plot had been arrested. He said the regime had arrested some 300 people in the recent past, but said they were "innocent citizens, including students, shopkeepers and ordinary workers and labourers." The purpose of these arrests was "to demoralise mujahidin supporters" among the citizens, he said. "The Kabul regime has lost its effectivenees and it can no more hoodwink world public opinion," he added.

The spokesman stressed that the Kabul government had launched a propaganda offensive against the mujahidin. He said there was absolutely "no truth" in a government claim Monday [4 December] that Mr. Hekmatyar's powerful Hezb-e Eslami faction was locked in fighting with another major faction. He said "the regime has launched the campaign because it was worried about the recent patch-up" between the two groups, which have been known to feud in the past. The regime knows its survival depends on internal fighting among the resistance, he remarked.

Interim Government President Meets Soviets

BK0312070189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Afghan Interim Government [AIG] President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi has met three Soviet representatives of the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies in Washington. This was stated by the AIG president who described the meeting as positive and added that all aspects of the Afghan war were discussed. According to reports, this was the first meeting between Soviet officials and the Afghan mujahidin since the Soviet attack on Afghanistan 10 years ago.

Rival Mujahidin Leaders Announce 'Cease-Fire'

BK0112032489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0223 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 30 (AFP)—Two rival Afghan guerrilla leaders announced Thursday [30 November] that they had agreed to a cease-fire, six days after a Palestinian scholar who arranged their reconciliation was killed by a car bomb.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of the relatively moderate fundamentalist group Jamiyat-e Eslami and Golbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami, told newsmen here that they had agreed to a cease-fire and would return prisoners and land captured in their clashes.

The two leaders, whose men have had several bloody clashes this year, also said they would set up a joint reconciliation commission. They will not interdict one another's military convoys and the arms and ammunition seized by rival guerrillas would be returned, the leaders said. They gave no date for implementation of the accord, though they said they had already ordered their field commanders to stop fighting.

The two leaders met at the Hezb-e Eslami's office here where Mr. Hekmatyar had arranged a memorial meeting for a Palestinian scholar Shaykh 'Abdallah Ezam [name as received] who died with his two sons in a car bomb blast in Peshawar Friday. Shaykh 'Abdallah Ezam, a pro-Saudi figure, had obtained the signatures of the two feuding leaders on a reconciliation accord on the eve of his death, Mr. Hekmatyar told newsmen. The Palestinian scholar drafted the accord after the two guerrilla factions fought a bloody battle in northern Takhar Province in July.

Jamiyat-e Eslami sources said 30 of their men were massacred including six close associates of its Panjsher Valley commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, allegedly by Mr. Hekmatyar's men. The Takhar incident triggered a chain of factional clashes between the two groups, and the conflict led Mr. Hekmatayar to resign as foreign minister of the mujahidin Afghan Interim Government [AIG] to protest strong criticism from AIG president Sebghatullah Mojaddedi.

Both leaders charged that the killing of Dr. Ezam, carried out with a sophisticated remote-controlled device, and the discovery of a time-bomb aboard a Saudi jet that left Pakistan a day earlier were part of a "well-organised conspiracy."

A Yemeni mediation team headed by 'Abdul Majid Zandani [name as received] was due to travel on the Saudi plane, according to press reports here. The plane made an emergency landing in Karachi after anonymous caller informed the airport authorities in Islamabad that a bomb was on board.

The reconciliation commission will include one religious scholar from each party. In case the two-man commission fails to agree, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, chief of the Pakistani Jamiyt-i Islami party, will have the power to decide the issue. Mr. Ahmad, whose party is an important component of Pakistan's opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance, has strongly supported the "Afghan jihad" (holy war) against the Soviet-backed Kabul regime since its outset in 1979. He is considered close ally of Mr. Hekmatyar inside Pakistan.

Mr. Ahmad accused the "Indo-Soviet-Zionist lobby" of conspiring to kill Shaykh 'Abdallah, who was seen as the Saudi connection in Arab assistance to the Afghan resistance.

In her message to the widow of Shaykh 'Abdallah, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Thursday said as a result of "this dastardly act of terrorism, we have lost an Islamic scholar who had rendered significant humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees."

Government Claims Internecine Clashes Continue

BK0412160689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Afghan Government charged Monday that bad blood between two of the largest Afghan resistance factions was too deep-rooted to be solved by "paper agreements" and cited reports of more killings over the weekend as evidence.

Golbuddin Hekmatyar of the Hezb-e Eslami and the Jamiyat-e Eslami group of Burhanuddin Rabbani said last week they had signed an agreement to end their bloody feud that has severely dented the fighting capability and the credibility of the seven-party resistance alliance. They said they had ordered their men to stop fighting each other.

A Jamiyat-e Eslami guerrilla commander, Uzbpacha Khan, was killed Sunday [3 December] in southern Qandahar Province when a bomb planted by Mr. Hekmatyar's men blew apart the car he was travelling in, a government spokesman told journalists here.

He said the government had also received reports that Jamiyat-e Eslami commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was still holding prisoner and had no intention of releasing the Hezb-e Eslami commander, Sayyed Jamal, held responsible for killing some 30 of his men earlier this year.

He added that the fighting between the two groups was expanding day by day and "these differences are so deep that they cannot be solved by what they're saying" in Pakistan.

Independent sources have said they have received reports that mujahidin are continuing to fight one another in the countryside outside Kabul.

88 U.S.-Made Rockets Seized Outside Kabul

LD0512104389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 4, BAKHTAR—Detachments and contingents of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) shunned attacks of the extremists, supported by Pakistan, on the Samar Kheyl, Behsud, Darunta, Sorkh Rud and security belts around the Jalalabad city during the past 4 days (Dec 1-4, 1989), an authorised military source reported to BAKHTAR.

Three servicemen were killed and ten others wounded. The artillery and air forces of the RA retaliated. More than 156 extremists, including 3 of their ringleaders, were wiped out from the battle scene.

Attacks of the enemy in the Towr Ghar area, Khowst Grand District as well as Gardeyz and Qandahar cities took the lives of 5 servicemen and 2 civilians. Seventeen servicemen were wounded during their attacks as well.

The air and artillery forces of the country in their onslaughts against the people's enemies inflicted heavy blows on the extremists and their supporters. The number of extremists killed or wounded reach to 191, scores of them wounded, large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy including several recoilless guns, mortars and rocket launchers destroyed.

According to another report reached from the Nimroz Province the detachments of the Armed Forces during their mopping up operations carried out in the Chakhansur District killed 30 extremists, including one of their ringleaders, was killed [as received] and 2 others captured. Three vehicles of armaments of the enemy destroyed.

Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that during the mopping up operations of the security forces carried out in the Wocha Tangi of the Chakari area, Kabul, 88 USA made Sacker-20 and Sacker-30 rockets which were mounted under the plan of the USA state terrorism in that area for launching on the residential quarters of Kabul were discovered and seized. Several depots of arms and ammunition of the enemy in the area were also destroyed.

Convoy Arrives in Kabul Via Hayratan Highway

LD0512045189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The arrival of convoys carrying food and primary goods via the Hayratan highway is continuing. The BAKHTAR military section reported that today and yesterday, 1,287 state and private sector vehicles arrived in Kabul carrying flour, wheat, petroleum products, coal, sugar, and soap.

Security Forces Seize Weapons in Khak-e Jabbar

LD0212111589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0437 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 30, BAKHTAR—As a result of mopping up operations, carried out by the government security forces in Khak-e Jabbar area, Kabul Province, on Nov. 29, 1989, six ground-to-ground American Sacker-20 rockets, 50 ground to ground missiles, 60 mortar shells, and 3 anti-vehicles mines, placed by the extremists based on the plans of the U.S.-Pakistani state terrorism for killing more civilians were seized.

According to another report, the delegation of the Central Commission for Emergency Aids Dept, has distributed over 500,000 [words indistinct] on ten families damaged seriously during the extremist rocket attacks on Nov. 26th, in 3rd and 4th Precincts of Kabul city.

Over 15 extremists were killed and tens others injured during armed clashes took place between Golbuddin and Rabbani bands in Badakhshan and Takhar Provinces today. Besides, 62 men of Rabbani were captured alive by the Golbuddin groupings during the clash.

Battles Near Khak-e Jabbar Noted

LD0412070889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The Sarandoy infantry units and companies carried out mopping-up operations in some parts of Khak-e Jabbar today to prevent terrorist activities of the Pakistani-supported extremists.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that during these mopping-up operations 93 surface-to-surface Sakr-20 and Sakr-30 U.S. missiles, 20 surface-to-surface Misayel rockets [as heard], 56 rocket-launcher shells, and 22 anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines—which were hidden in areas of Khak-e Jabbar according to the state terrorism plans of the United States and Pakistan, designed to slaughter our Muslim people—were discovered and seized. This was done with the all-around cooperation of the local people.

During the operations five extremists were killed and a food depot belong to the extremists was burned down.

Najibullah Meets Peace Mediation Commission

LD0312233789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah, this morning met with members of the Mediation Commission of the Tribal Jirgah for Peace at Gol Khanah Palace. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported that at the beginning a few verses were recited from the holy Koran and then Ferdows Khan Mohmand, chairman of the Mediation Commission of the Tribal Jirgah for Peace, spoke about the resolutions and decisions of the Tribal Jirgah of Mirali region, northern Waziristan, and the peace jirgah of the tribes in Kabul. He presented proposals of the members of the commission concerning its contacts and activities.

Esteemed Najibullah then considered the decisions and resolution of the tribal peace jirgah as a positive step toward maintaining peace in Afghanistan. He welcomed them and said that as far as the government of Afghanistan is concerned, it would render necessary assistance to implement the demands and proposals of the Mediation Commission within the framework of what is possible.

Likewise, some members of the Mediation Commission spoke and said the peace proposals put forward by the

Republic of Afghanistan as a human and Islamic measure, and pledged not to spare any assistance toward the cessation of fratricide and the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan. In conclusion, prayers were said for the return of peace and the cessation of war and fratricide in the country.

Leaders Send Congratulatory Messages to Laos

LD0212135489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 1, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan "RA" has sent a congratulatory message to Vientiane addressed to Phoumi Vongvichit, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of the national day of that country.

While expressing congratulations on the occasion, the message says that the existing friendly relations between the peoples and governments of the two countries, will be further consolidated in the interests of peace and security in region as well as in world.

Likewise, on the same occasion Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA and 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minsiter of Afghanistan sent congratulatory messages to that country addressed to Kaysone Phomvihan, the prime minister and Phoun Sipaseut, minister of foreign affairs of Laos.

Meetings Mark 2d Anniversary of Constitution

LD0212135789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 30, BAKHTAR—The Executive Board of the Senate of the Republic of Afghanistan held a special session here today on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the enforcement of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan presided over by Dr. Mahmud Habibi, the Senate's speaker.

The Senate's Executive Board described the high values of the Constitution as the country's reliable and national document in which the interests of all tribes and nationalities have found reflections, reported BAKHTAR.

It was noted at the session that at the time when the legal and moral values of the communities are expanding day by day, the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan is enjoying socio-political significance and possesses a worthwhile position among the constitutions of other countries based on the principles of democracy.

Similar meetings were also held at the halls of the conferences of the Ministry of Defence, at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and trust properties and at the conference hall of the attorney general.

At these meetings, General Shahnawaz Tanay, defence minister and General Muhammad Asef, president of the Supreme Court of the Armed Forces talked about the significance of the Constitution and history of legislation in Afghanistan. Similarly, 'Abdul Ghaffar Bahir minister of Islamic affairs and trust properties, talked about the Islamic aspects of the Constitution.

The mass media of Afghanistan also marked here today the Constitution's 2nd anniversary by publishing editorials, articles and making interviews and round-table press conferences.

Daily PAYAM, organ of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, in its today issue has published an editorial under the title of "Constitution Embodies Democratic Freedom in Our Country". The editorial emphasizes that the Constitution has defined the most important domestic and foreign political lives, most important points such as independence and integrity of Afghanistan, Islam religion as being the religion of Afghanistan, the country's non-aligned status and non-adherence of Afghanistan to military blocks have found reflections at the Constitution.

Bangladesh

Ershad Felicitates New Indian Prime Minister

BK0212130489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated Mr V.P. Singh on his assumption of the office of the prime minister of India. In a message, the president said Bangladesh has always (?given) particular importance to the development of cooperation with India as the [two] neighboring countries are bound together by many historical ties and close interaction among our two peoples. He expressed his confidence that under the new prime minister's leadership, the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and India will flourish further in an atmosphere of greater goodwill, cooperation and understanding in the years ahead. President Ershad also wished continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of India.

Indian Prime Minister's Remarks Welcomed

BK0412064089 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] With Mr V.P. Singh sworn in as prime minister following the Indian parliamentary elections, India is having now a new government. The new developments in New Delhi have, of course, a bearing on the situation in South Asia.

President Ershad in a message to the new Indian prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has expressed his confidence that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and India will further flourish under the leadership of Mr Singh in the days ahead. An atmosphere of greater goodwill, cooperation, and understanding, as President Ershad has

noted, will lead to further strengthening of Indo-Bangladesh relations. Felicitating Mr Singh on his assumption of responsibilities as the prime minister of India, the president has pointed out that Bangladesh has always placed particular importance on the development of cooperation with India. The two countries, as has been stated by President Ershad, are bound together as neighbors by many historical ties and close interaction. President Ershad has wished continued peace, progress, and prosperity of the friendly people of India and the good health, happiness, and long life of the new Indian prime minister.

Like President Ershad, the leaders of other South Asian countries have sent warm greetings to new Indian prime minister, expressing the hope that the cause of peace, stability, and progress in the region will be strengthened in the coming days. There is now a strong feeling in South Asian countries that the process for cooperation and collaboration in the region would receive a strong boost on the basis of sovereign equality of nations, mutual understanding, and closer harmony.

The announcements by the new Indian prime minister about the immediate concern of his government to restore friendly relations with neighbors augurs well for the sustenance of cooperative process in South Asia. Mr Singh is reported to have noted that India's relations with the neighbors have deteriorated in the recent past. He has stated that South Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, has received a shock as a result of this deterioration. He has made it categorically clear that his government will endeavor its best to bring SAARC back to its path of cooperation. Mr Singh has also expressed his determination to pursue the nonaligned path and maintain India's solidarity with developing countries and friendliness toward all.

It is quite reassuring to note here that the new Indian prime minister, V.P. Singh, in an interview has stated that his government will make all-out efforts to avoid a nuclear race in the subcontinent. He has rightly assessed that the spread of a nuclear race has very dangerous consequences for the region. If a nuclear arms race is started, it would mean a tremendous strain on the regional resources. Besides, such a race will threaten stability and vitiate the climate of mutual trust and confidence so urgently needed for promotion of cooperation and understanding on meaningful and effective lines in the region.

Mr Singh's assessment of India's role in the wide-ranging interview, as reported by the news agencies, merits attention for many reasons. He has stated that his government will work to dispel the image of India as a regional bully. As has been noted by the new Indian prime minister, India's neighbors may be pushed into security arrangements if New Delhi does not shed its image as a regional bully.

In view of what Mr Singh has stated about Indo-Nepal relations and also about India's bilateral relations with Sri Lanka, one would obviously hope that a new initiative will now be taken by New Delhi to heal the wounds. Strains and irritants in Indo-Nepal and also in Indo-Sri Lanka relations have bedeviled the spirit of cooperation in the region. With effective steps now (?being) taken to heal the wounds and promote friendship on the basis of sovereign equality, noninterference, and mutual trust, the prospects for wider cooperation in South Asia will certainly become brighter.

Ershad Offers 'Total Support' to Corazon Aquino

BK0212134689 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The new ambassador of the Phillipines, Mr C.C. Pastores, presented his credentials to President Ershad at Bangabhaban [Presidency] in Dhaka today. Presenting his letter of credence, the Filipino envoy expressed his confidence that the existing friendly ties between the two countries will continue to grow as considerable scope remains available for further expansion of cooperation.

President Ershad held out Bangladesh's total support to the democratically-elected government of President Corazon Aquino. He expressed the hope that President Aquino's government has full command over the situation and is capable of bringing the disruptionist elements under control.

India

Cabinet Sworn In; Reasons for Absences Noted

BK0512171289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The much awaited expansion of the Union Council of Ministers took place this evening. In all, 15 ministers of cabinet rank and 2 ministers of state took the oath of office and secrecy at a glittering ceremony in the Ashok Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan. [passage omitted]

Later, at an informal chat with journalists, Mr V.P. Singh said that everyone will be in their jobs tomorrow. This was in response to a query about the portfolios. Keep guessing was the line he took. Mr Singh also said that he will give up the post of party president.

The portfolios of the ministers have not been announced so far. Asked why Mr Nathuram Mirdha, who was scheduled to be sworn in as a cabinet minister, and Mr Yashwant Sinha, who was to be sworn in as a minister of state, did not turn up for the swearing-in ceremony, Mr V.P. Singh said that they might have been held up somewhere.

Mr Nathuram Mirdha, who was named as a cabinet minister in Mr V.P. Singh's ministry, told UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] in Jaipur that he had not been formally invited to take the oath of office and

secrecy. He said he would leave for Delhi as soon as he gets the official communication.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr Chandra Shekhar also did not attend the swearing-in ceremony today. At the time of the ceremony he was resting in an ashram 40 km away from Delhi. Doordarshan correspondent, Prabhakar Rao, met him there:

[Chandra Shekhar] When Mrs Gandhi was chairman, I was in the Congress party, I did not attend the swearing-in ceremony. Even when Morarji Desai was chairman in 1977, I was not present there. The only time I was present as a visitor in the swearing-in ceremony was when Chaudhary Charan Singh was sworn as deputy prime minister and finance minister in 1978, and it was essential because at that time I was the president of Janata Party.

[Rao] Are you satisfied with the present situation with Mr V.P. Singh as your leader?

[Chandra Shekhar] (?Well), Mr V.P. Singh is the prime minister of this country and we should give all the respect and cooperation from our [words indistinct].

[Rao] You mean to suggest that you were never in the race for the leadership of Janata Dal parliamentary party.

[Chandra Shekhar] [Words indistinct] as I have already told you that the race [words indistinct].

V.P. Singh Assigns Portfolios

BK0612085689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The portfolios of the union ministers have been announced. The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, retains with himself defense and personnel, public grievances and pensions, besides science and technology, atomic energy, electronics, ocean development, states, and environment and forests.

The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, gets agriculture; while finance has been given to Professor Madhu Dandavate.

The noted trade union leader, Mr George Fernandes, has been given railways, and Mr Ajit Singh gets industry.

Mufti Muhammad Sayeed gets the key Ministry of Home Affairs, and Mr Arun Kumar Nehru commerce and tourism.

Mr Sharad Yadav has been given textiles with the additional charge of Ministry of Food Processing Industry.

Information and broadcasting and parliamentary affairs has been entrusted to Mr P. Upendra.

Petroleum and chemicals goes to Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy.

The External Affairs Ministry will be headed by former diplomat Mr I.K. Gujral.

Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, who has been returned with the highest margin of over 500,000 votes in the Lok Sabha elections, gets labor and welfare.

Mr Arif Mohammad Khan has been given energy with the additional charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Health and family welfare goes to the former Orissa chief minister, Mr Neelamani Rautray.

Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan has been given surface transport with the additional charge of communications.

Mr Dinesh Goswami gets steel and mines and will hold additional charge of law and justice.

Mr Murasoli Maran is the new urban development minister.

Among the ministers of state Mr Manubhai Kataria will hold independent charge of the Ministry of Water Resources. Mrs Menaka Gandhi is the minister of state for environment and forest.

According to a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] this afternoon, all other subjects not allocated to any cabinet minister or minister of state with independent charge will remain with the prime minister.

'Militant' Sikh MP's Asked To Boycott Parliament

BK0112065089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1947 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 30 (AFP)—Militant Sikhs elected in India's general elections have been asked by their leadership not to take their parliamentary seats until the government meets certain conditions, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Thursday.

The All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), considered to be the cutting edge of Sikh militancy in northern India's Punjab State, asked the Sikh MPs [members of parliament] not to take oath unless the government apologises for the 1984 Army assault on the Golden Temple, PTI said. The Army action against Sikh militants entrenched in the fortified temple complex left some 650 dead by official count—including fundamentalist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale—and badly damaged Sikhdom's holiest shrine, in Punjab's Amritsar city.

The AISSF, in a resolution adopted at a meeting in Amritsar, also demanded that New Delhi "atone and tender apology" for the killing of Sikhs during the November 1984 riots triggered by the slaying of then-prime minister Indira Gandhi by two of her Sikh bodyguards. The group said New Delhi must punish the guilty in the November riots, which left more than 3,000 dead, mostly in the Indian capital, PTI reported.

Six Sikh MPs were elected from Punjab, including Simranjit Singh Mann, a former police officer now under arrest for conspiracy in the Indira Gandhi murder. The other five are members of Mr. Mann's faction of the Sikh party Akali Dal.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, son of the slain premier, has directed the authorities to withdraw the case against Mr. Mann after the elections.

Another notable victor among the six was Bimal Khalsa, the widow of Beant Singh, one of Mrs. Ghandi's two assassins.

Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) captured only two of the Punjab's 13 seats. The others went to various groups or independents.

Two moderate Sikh factions of Akali Dal opposed to the violent Sikh militant campaign for a homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) in Punjab, drew blanks in last week's vote.

Sikh Party Declares Goal of Separate Homeland

BK0612093289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has sought an appointment with the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to discuss the latest situation in the state. In a message to Mr V.P. Singh, Mr Ray referred to All India Sikh Students Federation's reported demand for Khalistan [separate homeland for Sikhs]. The All India Sikh Students Federation general secretary, Mr Harminder Sandhu, in a press conference in Amritsar yesterday had declared Khalistan as his party's goal.

The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, will visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar tomorrow for prayers. He will be accompanied by the cabinet minister, Mr I.K. Gujral.

Bomb Blasts Reported in Jammu, Kashmir

BK0512155789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two buildings and two vehicles were damaged in bomb blasts at different places in the valley since last evening. Four of these blasts occurred at Anantnag District and two in Srinagar city.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo has strongly condemned the bomb attack on the party's office at Srinagar yesterday.

Editorial on Chinese Premier's South Asian Tour

BK2911092989 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "China in South Asia"]

[Text] Mr Li Peng's visit to the South Asian countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal has considerable significance as it is the first visit by a leading politician after the recent events in China and East Europe to these countries. The Chinese Prime Minister, it appears, spent considerable time to familiarise his interlocutors with Beijing's views on the changes taking place, particularly in China, and to assure them that Chinese policy towards the region remains unchanged. There were the usual promises of aid, of hopes that SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] would lead to economic cooperation and prosperity, and of course assurances of diplomatic support and military assistance in case independence or territorial integrity is threatened. The recent improvement in relations with India might cause concern in some capitals in the region that a Sino-Indian detente will be at their expense. Mr Li Peng's visit was primarily to assure them that any improvement in relations will not be at their expense, that Beijing's policy towards the region will continue as before. It is important for policymakers in New Delhi to realise the implications of the visit—that there are limits to improvements in Sino-Indian relations. China has become a major player in the diplomacy of the South Asian region and even if relations with India improve considerably its policy will be directed primarily to creating a counter-vailing force to India's detriment. It will therefore cultivate the other sub-continental countries, and particularly Pakistan, with which it is linked by what is a de facto military alliance. Beijing will continue to exploit our difficulties with the neighbouring countries; the language will be toned down, the intentions will be expressed in more polite terms but the purpose will remain unchanged. Better relations with China will not necessarily lead to a lessening of Chinese interest in the political equations of the region. Beijing will continue to be a major player in the game of regional diplomacy. That indeed is the message of Mr Li Peng's visit.

Iran

France's 'Impartiality' in Lebanon Questioned

LD0612101589 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—French influence in Lebanon is far from being unquestioned, said the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in an editorial Wednesday adding that although Paris carries a considerable weight in shaping up the Lebanese events, its maneuverings cannot be absolute.

"Lebanon, much to the chagrin of the world powers, has by now proved to the whole world that it is not a suitable ground for pre-determined plans," the paper commented.

Referring to the French Premier Michel Rocard's denouncement of a group of parliamentarians who had travelled to Lebanon to express support for the former army commander Michel 'Awn in his confrontation with

the newly elected president Ilyas al-Hirawi, it said, "Apparently Paris has remained neutral towards the Lebanese crisis."

"But information at hand tell another story," the daily pointed out adding "backdoor news has it that France has secretly assured 'Awn of its support encouraging him to continue his occupation of the Lebanese presidential palace."

"In fact France stands next to Israel, followed by Iraq, in laying the foreign foundation on which 'Awn and his forces can lean for support and continue their warmongering revolt against the duly elected president."

The daily also believed that dispatch of a French warship to Lebanese waters to evacuate French subjects should hostilities erupt between Al-Hirawi and 'Awn forces is a "demonstration of support for Michel 'Awn.

As a further proof to French support for 'Awn, the paper stressed, "In the course of the last year when the balance of power has been disturbed to the disadvantage of the Maronite forces in Lebanon, the socialist government of France has not hesitated to call in its naval big guns for a show in Lebanese coasts."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on Relations With Britain

NC0512222089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Great Britain—Atonement for Its Errors?"]

[Excerpts] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has spoken of the London government's desire and inclination to forge relations with Iran and has stressed Iran's general importance in the region and the world. In these same remarks he added that Iran has influence in Lebanon and thus it is possible that British hostages could be released.

These remarks by the British foreign secretary are interesting when viewed in light of all the incidents which have strained that country's relations with the Islamic world and, in particular, with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Relations between Britain and Iran continued even after the overthrow of the tyrannical monarchical regime and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Despite the dossier of Great Britain's black deeds, with many examples of intervention in Iran during the monarchical era, the Islamic Republic of Iran preserved its relations with that country.

In the incident of the occupation of the den of spies in Iran, the British Government suspended its relations with Iran in a display of support for and sympathy with Washington's position. It closed down its embassy and converted it into an office "for safeguarding its interests." This action on the part of the British Government was not accompanied by any change in its policy and it was for this reason that the British authorities made repeated requests for relations with Iran, directly and indirectly. [passage omitted]

British requests following the cease-fire in the imposed war took on a more serious form and ostensibly seemed more realistic. The Islamic Republic of Iran studied the British requests from this viewpoint and gave a positive response out of goodwill. Right at the outset, however, a warning was issued that whatever the London government had stated as a sign of goodwill—while in the process of seeking a resumption of relations—should be kept in mind in the light of subsequent action. In this way it could be proved in a practical manner that the British authorities comprehended the matter and would muster their resources to coordinate their actions in an overt and tangible way.

After being closed for 8 years, the British Embassy in Tehran reopened on 14 Azar 1367 [5 December 1988] and thus Iranian-British relations were on the path toward improvement. However, the people and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran were watching the situation with more vigilance than ever, so that the goodwill of the British authorities could be put to the test on the whetstone of time.

It appeared initially that Great Britain had been chastened to a considerable extent and realized the difference between "Islamic Iran" and the "Iran of the shah." [passage omitted]

When the British did not make any gains by direct confrontation with the Islamic Republic, they resorted to attacks at the "grassroots" level and rose up against Islamic sanctities. The first outcome of this policy was the book "The Satanic Verses" which was written by a member of the Royal Literary Society. The imam, blessings be upon him, realized this was a major plot and issued an Islamic decree against the abominable author. [passage omitted]

The issue of a resumption of relations is clearly explained in the bill formulated by the Islamic Majles on the subject, and now the British foreign secretary is expressing a desire to mend fences with Iran.

If the open request by the British foreign secretary is based on the following factors, then it is a positive step and should be welcomed:

1. A public apology to the 1 billion Muslims in the world for the overt humiliation of Islamic sanctities and subsequent support for this continued humiliation.
2. A declaration of readiness to hand over Salman Rushdie and the punishment of the original publishers of "The Satanic Verses."
3. An declaration that such audacious acts of humiliation will never again be committed against Islamic sanctities.

If the remarks of the British foreign secretary were motivated by an acceptance of these factors then it indicates that the British have realized the error of their

ways and are trying to rectify their incorrect behavior. In that case, it may be said that the mending of broken bridges is possible.

However, if the London government has other objectives and doubts in this regard, one may say that the sincerity and integrity of the British has repeatedly been tested and they have always failed every test of their goodwill.

The London government should bear in mind that with the lapse of a few months since these appalling incidents took place, the Islamic world will never forget even a single such audacious act or the despicable conduct of the London government. The 1 billion Muslims throughout the wide world have retained their revolutionary indignation against the enemies of Islam and will continue to do so.

From the outset it was clear that this inhuman act was a sign of the uncouth behavior of the British authorities, who should be the ones to make a retreat. Has the time come for the British to do so? London should answer this question so that the level of their understanding of culture, humanitarianism, and freedom may be proved.

TEHRAN TIMES Assails Swedish Judiciary

NC0412192889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "The Swedish Judiciary and Double Standards"]

[Text] Ahmad Rami, director of Radio Islam in Sweden, has been given a six-month sentence by a Swedish court following a complaint filed againt him on his alleged anti-Jewish propaganda. The court has also ordered the station closed down.

According to many of the Radio Islam listeners, the station always attacked Zionism for its macabre global designs and never the Jewish faith. Regrettably, the Swedish courts that claim to belong to a reputably impartial and just judicial system have condemned the radio and its director on anti-Semitic grounds. Sweden's judicial authorities too have upheld the court's position claiming that it has been in defense of a religious minority and the sanctities of a Divine religion, Judaism.

It goes without saying that Islam's approach to other divine religions like Christianity and Judaism is only one of full respect and reverence. The prophet of the Jewish faith, Moses (peace be upon him) is regarded in Islamic ideology as one of the five great messengers of God. In fact any effrontery and invective against Moses (peace be upon him) runs totally counter to the very fundamentals of faith in Islam as it regards itself as having common origins, emanating from the divine, with the Jewish faith.

As such, there is no reason why Ahmad Rami and his radio should have attacked this divine religion.

But a thorny question remains unanswered: Does not the Swedish Government really distinguish between Zionism as a racist ideology and the Jewish faith as a divine religion?

The Swedish Government claims that the court's handling of Rami's case has not been meted out in defense of a religious minority only.

If so, why not a more amicable approach to the case? A warning would have been enough to induce the station to reconsider the slant of its broadcasts and come within the norms of respect for other people's beliefs. Why such a harsh stand that left no room for improvement of supposedly wrong practices and an abrupt closing down of this station.

Another nagging question is why the Swedish Government does not recognize the same right for its Muslim community and does not defend them against injury of their beliefs?

A case in point is that of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses." One is surprised as to how the so-called democratic Swedish Government covers itself in cheap excuses and lets a book as insulting as Salman Rushdie's novel be freely published and distributed in that country in spite of numerous appeals by Muslims to ban it.

In their legal pursuits, the Swedish Muslims filed their complaints against the book merely on the grounds of its outright effontery to Islamic sanctities. Yet the "just" Swedish judiciary turned a deaf ear to the appeal and allowed the book to be published in that country.

Double standards of the Swedish Government and its judicial system have undoubtedly jeopardized and made a mockery of the high democatic ideals claimed by that country.

Police Surveillance of Vienna Embassy Criticized

LD0512034989 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The first commentary focuses on: The Austrian Government Takes Unfriendly Measures Against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The buildings of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Vienna and the Iranian Cultural Consular's Office in that city have been under siege of the Austrian police forces since mid-last week. Such an unfriendly measure by the Austrian Government against the Islamic Republic of Iran takes place almost 5 months after the killing of 'Abdul Rahman Qasemlu under the pretext of the Austrian Government's attempt to arrest three Iranian nationals who have been accused of having a hand in this killing. In that event, which took place in Vienna on October 1st this year, Qasemlu along with his deputy, as well as a Kurdish politician having Austrian citizenship, lost their lives in the meeting between Kurds and the Iranian officials.

Reports reaching here indicate that during the past few days the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna has been under severe siege of the Austrian police officers, and the Iranian diplomats, employees, and workers inside the embassy as well as those referring to the Iranian Embassy have been mistreated—something which is against diplomatic norms. In this regard, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has so far summoned the Austrian charge d'affaires to Tehran twice and has expressed its disatisfaction over the inimical attitude of the Austrian Government.

Such a measure by the Austrian Government which has enjoyed friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran following the victory of the Islamic revolution, a test to the fact that Austria has done it either due to the pressures from the side of some internal political elements who have close links with the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, or the weakness of the police and the security forces in identifying those responsible for the crime has forced them to take such a measure.

At any rate, the reasons presented by the Austrian Ministry of Justice in accusing three Iranian citizens of having a hand in the killing of Qasemlu following which the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna went under siege, seemed so baseless which leave no doubt behind who has been really responsible for the recent plot. In view of the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, how could holding of a meeting with the Kurdish leaders which took place in order to remove tensions in the Iranian Kurdish province, be to the detriment of Iran? Besides that, the said meeting had taken place at the suggestion of the Kurdish leaders and the Iranian officials, so it can't be said that Iranian officials pursued predetermined objectives in this regard. During the previous years too, the two sides had held many talks of this sort. Most certainly, the agents responsible for this crime are those who find the trend of talks and a change in the stands of the Kurds towards the Islamic Republic of Iran to be against their interests.

In view of the hostile attitude of the Iraqi Government towards the Kurds and that regime's savage attacks against the Kurds with the objective to annihilate them, where for instance the city of Halabjah was chemically bombed, it is assumed that the regime of Iraq has an active role in darkening relations between Iran and Austria and here its the Austrian Government which should instead of resorting to unfriendly measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran identify the real agents responsible for this crime.

'Siege' of Embassy Lifted

LD0612093689 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Vienna, Dec 6., IRNA—The Austrian police lifted the seige on the Iranian Embassy Tuesday evening and left the compound peacefully. The Iranian diplomatic mission was cordoned off by police since November 29 under the pretext of arresting three Iranians allegedly involved in the assassination of leader of the banned Kurdistan Democratic Party 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu in Vienna last July.

Ceausescu To Pay Official Visit Late Dec

LD0512140789 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu will pay an official [visit] here [at] the invitation of his Iranian counterpart later this month, a Foreign Ministry announcement said Tuesday. Iran and Romania are enjoying good economic relations.

'No Concession' to Iraq Over Resolution 598

LD0612165789 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—A senior official of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here Wednesday said that Iran will give no concession to Iraq for the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 on ending Iraq-Iran conflict.

Acting IRGC Commander Rahim Safavi speaking in a gathering of the families of the Iranian POW's and those missing in action said, "if commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces deemed advisable, Iran's Armed Forces, more prepared than before, would repel Iraqi troops from occupied Iranian territory in less than 24 hours if Iraq refused to withdraw."

He stressed that Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's claim over Arvand River waterway was a pretext to compensate for the immense losses he sustained in the course of the imposed war.

Safavi noted that Saddam in a bid to appease the global arrogance, intended to destroy the Islamic revolution. But, he stressed, due to wise leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni and devotion of the Iranian people, global arrogance failed to reach this ominous objective.

The IRGC official reiterated preparedness of the IRGC and Basij (mobilisation of the oppressed) forces and said they were ready to materialise objectives of the late Imam under the leadership of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Editorial on Iraq's Rejection of POW Exchange

NC0412232789 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "A Forgetful and Oath-Breaking Neighbor"]

[Text] The Iraqi regime's negative answer to the Islamic Republic's proposal on an exchange of prisoners of war simultaneous with the withdrawal of forces to international borders and the complete withdrawal of the Iraqi Army from Iranian territory once again showed who is kindling the fire and who is creating instability in the Persian Gulf.

Tariq 'Aziz rejected Iran's proposal.

He described the 1975 [Algiers] pact—which is an official and valid pact between two countries and the credibility and validity of which has been repeatedly emphasized by international circles—as a "dead pact"! Iran reciprocated by emphasizing that this pact is valid and unalterable.

The definite fact now is that Iran's previous remarks and analyses on the insincerity of the Iraqi leaders in their call for peace were completely true. The Iranian nation has not forgotten the recent past. Iraq repeatedly stated in the past, both officially and unofficially, that it supported unconditional peace. The Islamic Republic's officials regarded these claims with doubt and suspicion at that time and their concern was that if they stopped military pressures, brought the country out of its defensive and war situation, pushed it toward a situation of peace and calm, and employed the existing forces in non-defensive and non-war activities, the Iraqi regime would use this opportunity to strengthen itself. It would then suddenly reclaim sovereignty over the entire Arvand River and make peace and security a victim of its allegations and views.

There were also a limited number of people, both in Iran and abroad, who truly believed Iraq's claims about unconditional peace. Now however, more than a year since Iran accepted the Security Council's resolution, it is becoming more and more clear that the Iraqi regime was never sincere in its claims to want peace and that the Islamic Republic's officials were right to doubt this oath-breaking and aggressive neighbor.

The recent remarks and emphatic orders by the leader of the revolution on strengthening and equipping the country's defense structure, as well as the positions declared by the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry in answer to Iraq, should have made the owners of the "glass castle of politics" in Western and Arab countries, and especially in Iraq, understand that while it is devoted to true peace and stability, the Iranian nation and government detest compromise and silence vis-a-vis the aggressive and oath-breaking enemy with all their might, and will never accept any diktat. We hope that our western neighbor has not forgotten everything so soon!

ICRC, Red Crescent Officials Discuss POW's

LD0512131389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The general manager of Middle Eastern and North African affairs of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] held talks today with Vahid Dastjerdi, secretary general of the Red Crescent Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a Central News Unit report, Dastjerdi said that he hopes the ICRC will increase its serious efforts to solve the problems facing Iranian prisoners of war, and those missing, believed to be in Iraq, and to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to register those Iranian prisoners of war who have not yet been registered. The head of our country's Red Crescent Society also asked the committee to follow up the reiterated humanitarian proposal put forward by the Iranian Government to free all prisoners of war who are ill or disabled, and the Iranian Government's two-point plan to release all prisoners of war to coincide with troop withdrawals.

Iraqi POW's See Families

LD0412133689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] In continuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian policies, this morning 110 Iraqi POW's met and talked with their families at Tehran's Heshmatieh camp. According to a Central News Unit report, at this meeting which took place in an open air location, the Iraqi POWs' families talked to their captive relatives for a few hours.

So far, apart from private meetings, Iraqi POW's have met their families collectively at Tehran's Heshmatieh garrison more than 50 times. This is at a time when the Iraqi regime has not given, even once, permission to Iranian families to met with their captive relatives, despite the fact that the Iraqi regime calls the freeing of POW's a humanitarian act before it evacuates Iranian territory.

4 Lebanese POW's Released

NC0512185189 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Four Lebanese prisoners of war, who were released by the Islamic Republic of Iran in another humanitarian gesture, left Tehran today. The prisoners were handed over to Ramzi al-Safa, special representative of Walid Junblatt, at Mehrabad Airport in the presence of the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In a statement at Mehrabad Airport, Al-Safa said the release is a Muslim and humanitarian measure on the part of the Islamic Republic. He asserted that these prisoners had gone to Iraq to earn a living because of the difficult conditions in Lebanon.

The four Lebanese prisoners of war, who were captured by Islamic troops during the "Bayt al-Moqaddas" operations in 1982, said before leaving Tehran that their release is proof of the good intentions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is worth noting that the Islamic Republic had earlier released 45 non-Iraqi prisoners of war, including 15 Sudanese, 8 Lebanese, 16 Egyptians, and 6 Somalis. So far, the Islamic Republic has released 1,406 wounded and handicapped Iraqi prisoners of war, in a unilateral gesture.

TEHRAN TIMES Editorial on Relations With Oman

NC0512134489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Oman's Support of Iran's Rights Serves Regional Peace"]

[Text] Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs told Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati last Thursday that the 1975 Iran-Iraq Algiers Accord has solved the issue of sovereignty over the much disputed Arvand River waterway between the two countries.

In the same meeting in Muscat the host minister also said "Nobody could expect Iran to give up its right." Ibn-'Alawi further noted tha the U.N. sponsored ceasefire Resolution 598 could positively settle all war-related issues between the two neighbors.

Oman, a country of logical and appreciable stands during the eight years of military feud between belligerent Baghdad and Tehran, seems to have stepped up efforts to boost security in this much troubled part of the world.

Oman's rightful moves are centainly out of genuine considerations and a true understanding of the geopolitics of the region. Muscat can be judged to be quite wary of how detrimental the present no-war-no-peace situation can prove to the strategic interests of people living in this sensitive region.

Iran for its part has been constantly hammering on the theme that further delays in the implementation of the United Nation's resolution will only worsen the situation and threaten regional security.

In the course of eight-year-long and heroic years of defense, Iran proved to its Ba'thist foe as well as to the whole world that it is well capable and equally determined to defend its territory, and honor at all costs. As such the Islamic Republic's plea with the international community to pressure the stubborn Iraqi rulers to come off their bullying perch and abandon illogical position is never out of weakness of any sort. Such pleas only reflect Tehran's deep understanding of the sensitive regional situaiton and its sincere desire for peace at the regional level.

But for purely sectarian and unrealistic reasons prevailing among many governments, especially in this part of the world, Iran's call for greater peace efforts has fallen on deaf ears.

Politics, the saying goes, is dirty. But at times one just has to be outspoken and side with the right, away from any ulterior motives, in one's own very best interests as well as those of others around one.

Oman's understanding and unequivocal position over the Algiers Accord, an internationally registered agreement which Iraq is so blatntly and undreasonably trying to dump, is what all those concerned with peace should adopt and we expect them to adopt.

To get peace down the channel for this troubled area, one should not try to convince the party following a logical stand to give in to the bullyings of the other party. Rather, one should try, at least by siding with reason and logic, to make the illogically stubborn party realize the situation and relinquish baseless positions in the interests of justice, reason and peace.

Commentary on OPEC's Long-Term Strategy

NC0212130189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. The 86th regular session of the OPEC oil ministers ended in Vienna last week. Commenting on the session in an interview upon his return, our country's petroleum minister announced that OPEC is on the verge of formulating a long-term strategy which will benefit OPEC's members as well as consumers.

According to the decisions adopted at the 86th OPEC session, the production ceiling in the first half of 1990 will be 22 million barrels per day [bpd], with a minimum price of $18. This increase in the production ceiling comes in response to the needs of the world oil market. [passage omitted]

One of the gains of the 86th OPEC session was the increase in the production ceiling, with all members sharing in the increase in market demand. On the basis of the decisions adopted at this session, the production ceiling for all members increased. The Islamic Republic of Iran's ceiling rose to the level of 200,000 bpd. Even if the United Arab Emirates does not accept its new quota and continues to exceed its ceiling, it will still be possible to resolve the problem of surplus production to a great extent by making Kuwait abide by the new quotas.

Surplus production results in a drop in oil prices during periods of market stagnation. The 86th OPEC session decided to convene a meeting of its eight-member ministerial supervisory committee next 15 March to assess members' adherence to the quotas and the measures be taken in event of the instability in the international oil market. [passage omitted]

The lack of a long-term strategy in OPEC stems from numerous factors, including differences in the political and economic interests of members, which makes the formulation of such a strategy difficult under present circumstances. However, the OPEC Secretariat is contemplating long-term programs until 1995 and the year 2000. [passage omitted]

TEHRAN TIMES on 'Cheating' in OPEC Quotas

NC0412222789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC and 'Cheating' on Quotas"]

[Text] OPEC ministers have been debating heatedly over a new production ceiling and a possible new price arrangement in Vienna since Saturday.

Iran and Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, have proposed a redistribution of the international oil body's production quotas asking for a total production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day (MBD).

This proposal, shooting up the cartel's current self-imposed limit of 20.5 million by one MBD is intended to cover the first half of the next year. If approved, the redistribution plan would increase the individual output of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to 1.5 MBD from just over one MBD at present.

Regrettably, Kuwait and the UAE have chosen not to cooperate with the OPEC and have openly refused to commit themselves to the quotas assigned to them in the last Geneva meeting.

Undoubtedly, a proper quota system seems to be the only remedy to this perennial problem of the OPEC. If the body fails and the members continue to get away with their "cheatings" on the quotas asigned to them, the OPEC will lose much of its clout in the international market. Some observers even believe that the body might face another price crash similar to what happened in 1986. And this should be prevented at all costs as no member wants another dip in the present price of 18 dollars per barrel. This "cheating" on quotas is indeed nothing less than pulling the rug from under one another and eventually will hurl the OPEC into serious problems in the world market.

The cheating has got out of bounds and by no means can be overlooked or taken as a slight violation of the quotas. Kuwait and the UAE have recently been producing almost double their quotas. The funny thing about it is that they not only try to conceal it but explicitly defend this extreme violation and justify it.

Some quarters, however, take the present total output of 20.5 MBD far from being able to meet the cartel members' monetary requirements. This may be true and the idea does hold some water. But the way to contest the present quota system will not have to be necessarily a violation of the quotas. The member nations, in terms of their strategic interests and considerations should sit together and come up with a solution accepted to all or majority, as go the norms of democracy, and resolve the problem. Violating the body's decisions outright serves no one's interests.

Hopefully the present OPEC meet will be able to get a consensus from all the members and a generous increase in the quotas of the UAE and Kuwait will help bring their production ceiling within the folds of the international body again. The "cheating" will have to be stopped.

RESALAT's Interview of Najibullah Assailed

NC0112205789 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Nov 89 p 18

[M. Amjad commentary: "Exchanging Pleasantries With the Aristocrats of Politics!"—all exclamation points as published]

[Excerpts] These days RESALAT and most of the press have been granted audiences with prominent figures and in particular "the aristocrats of the political scene!" These interviews are usually characterized by the most diluted kind of general questions and even leave the doubts of the interviewee unanswered, while his answers are downplayed for the readers who are thirsty for such interviews, each of whom should be considered almost sitting indirectly across the same table.

It is obvious that the legal(!) regime ruling Afghanistan would not believe that Iran attaches importance to Kabul until such interviews take place in Kabul. This is because such a "noble" and democratic face has not been seen by these lovers of peace and friendship with their own eyes in the neighboring country of Afghanistan.

If you wish to know the reason, take a look at the interview published in the Wednesday evening newspaper [as published] of 18 November; and if the noble, complex, and intricate personality had not been present [referring to his photograph accompanying interview] perhaps he would not have been safe so far like "Hafiz." [sentence as published; presumably reference to predecessor Hafizollah Amin].

The first point that attracts attention in this exchange of almost political pleasantries is that the above newspaper has intentionally or inadvertently refrained from specifying "specially dispatched correspondent" from Kabul, perhaps because the inclusion of such an interview in itself has aroused the disbelief of the political circles and therefore did not need such a mention.

Making such a contact in such a publication, and exactly at a time when rumors of the Afghanistan issue deliberately being relegated to oblivion by Iran are rife and being disseminated among the ranks of the mujahidin can only have been engineered by elements who are in contact with the Kabul regime or its international supporters. This would be aimed at distorting the popular and luminous image of the Islamic revolution among the protagonists of Islamic Iran.

The misdemeanor of the above newspaper is further accentuated by carrying another interview the next day, this time with a leader of the Nehzat-e Eslami organization of Afghanistan regarding the condition of the Shiites in the Hazarajat region which is featured prominently, since a totally fallacious rumor has been circulating regarding Iran's hedging from the Afghanistan issue, and was reinforced when Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand—a socialist from the Hazara tribe—was appointed the prime minister of this regime.

In addition, even from a political point of view, presenting such "noble" [Najibullah] (!) [Najib means noble, presumably pun intended] elements who are protected by others (!) in conditions when there is talk of a change of power in the offing in Kabul and has even been implied in a contradictory way in this interview, is something which merits thinking about.

Of course, there is no doubt that the mass media and the publications occasionally, in present conditions and complicated international relations, serve to project messages on behalf of countries embroiled in disputes but this should be done in a very subtle manner. [passage omitted]

The interview itself is punctuated with political weaknesses. The atmosphere of the interview is reminiscent of Platonic confrontations (!) with the minimum of argument or discussion, and for this reason, most of the answers of this protagonist of national reconciliation have been treated in a liberal manner (!) without taking him to task. The interviewer does not refer in any way to the forces and groups of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan who are not only anti-American but also fiercely independent and have only the least facilities and arms.

On the contrary the image of the Kabul regime is projected as a totally pacifist regime, desiring tranquillity.

The question remains, even if it were so, why does the fate of such a powerful government (!) have to be linked with a foreign power and have a massive backing of armaments? Did the people of Afghanistan desire such a regime? Today the Soviet leaders openly admit that the occupation of Afghanistan was a gross error. Obviously, the very existence of a government which is dependent on the intervention of foreigners is opposed to national reconciliation. [passage omitted]

It would therefore be appropriate if, particularly in the complicated sphere of foreign politics and regional issues, Iran's press and mass media would display greater sensitivity, piety, and political acumen. A weak, mindless approach will only make others indifferent to us. A serious attitude toward the national reconciliation policy of the legal (!) Kabul regime rebounds on the mujahidin and national forces who are termed "dependent and affiliated with Americans" by the political aristocrats of Kabul.

How suitable it would have been if the Muslim mujahidin had strengthened their ranks and displayed unity of word and opinion on the political level. A splintering of position has no benefit except for the other side. Merely for the sake of removal of Najibullah from the seat of power the price, such as the handing over the Afghanistan Government to Zahir Shah and his kind should not be paid.

Only increasing alertness at this juncture will forge the correct shape of the future.

Editorial on Mujahidin Leader's Washington Visit

NC0512133689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly Edition in English 30 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Afghan Mujahidin Have Little To Gain From Washington Talks"]

[Text] All is not finished in Afghanistan despite the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country and all cannot be as long as the Najibullah regime continues to perpetuate itself in that country. But in spite of all the brave fighting that the Mujahidin have been in and despite the resistance which they have carried out almost at the gates of Kabul and major Afghan cities, toppling Najibullah and forming a government in Afghanistan truly representative of the Afghan people still seems far off. The trouble appears to be the lack of agreement between the Afghan mujahidin alliances—the 9-party alliance based in Iran and the 7-party alliances—based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Only last week a high-level delegation from the Iranian based alliance went over to Peshawar following an agreement to meet in October 1989, when the two sides meet here. But when the delegation went across as planned, they were dissapointed to find that only a low-level delegaton from the 7-party alliance was there to meet them. No solid talks were possible at that level and it was most frustrating that this should have been the case.

As for the agreement itself that was reached in October last when Afghan Interim Government President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and the leader of the 9-party alliance based in Iran Mohammad Karim Khalili met, that has not seen much progress either. None of the terms which were agreed to have been put into practice. It was decided then that the 9-party alliance were willing to join the interim government after a power sharing formula was reached.

However, it is unfortuante that there still seems to be a lack of complete faith on this question and the 9-party alliance and the Afghan interim government are not yet ready to accept wholeheartedly the Iran-based group into its fold despite the many assurances given. It can be seen as nothing other than an insistence on clinging to a monopoly of power through a narrowing of the representative bae of the Mujahidin alliances. The only hope for complete freedom of the Afghan people is for the alliances to come together to make freedom a reality by ousting the Najibullah regime.

It would be a mistake for the Afghan interim government president Mojaddedi to assume that Washington alone can help to make possible a free Afghanistan. The leader now in Washington for talks will be wrong to place too much hope from the U.S. in this regard. Hence hardly anything can be expected to materialize from the current talks seeking an alternative to the present Kabul regime.

Wasington in fact has made it very clear in various ways that it will not under any circumstances favor an Islamic

regime in Afghanistan. As long as this fear persists the Afghan Mujahidin leadership has little to gain from talking to Washington alone to the exclusion of other major groups whose assistance is vital to concerted and unified action which alone can be the key to a solution, the ultimate victory of the Afghan Mujahidin and the eventual formation of a government in that country.

Narcotics Seized From Afghan Smugglers

LD0512154989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards in Urumiyeh, 125g of morphine was seized and handed over to the judicial authorities, together with the accused individuals. According to Central News Unit report, the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards of Torbat-e Jam also smashed a gang involved in procurement and distribution of narcotics, who were active in Khorasan Province. Nine bags of opium weighing 60 kg were seized from four Afghan members of this gang. On the basis of this report, three kilos of opium was also seized from a drug trafficking gang in Marvedasht.

President Briefs Officials on First 5-year Plan

LD0512120689 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—The first five-year plan of the Islamic Republic is not ambitious but realistic, said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday.

Briefing the cabinet ministers and Majles deputies on the first 5-year development plan to be debated in the Majles soon, in a gathering here Monday night, the president added that Iran can boost its income revenues by employing its potential resources even if oil prices remain at the present level.

Referring to the country's existing industrial potentials, he said that exports could be boosted through proper utilisation of industries.

Completion of semi-constructed projects is among government priorities, he said adding that rls. 5,000 billion (75 rials is equal to one U.S. dlr.), eight times more than the country's annual budget is sitting idle in the form of semi-finished projects. Many bottlenecks and shortages could be overcome once these projects are finished and put into operation, he added.

The president described putting shares of factories at stock market for public purchase, started Sunday, as an essential move in channelling the dead capital into production activities.

Explaining the reason for export of Iranian buses when there is shortage inside the country, the president said that bus manufacturing companies could produce six to seven thousands of buses annually, but the government was short of the hard currency to put at the disposal of the industry for purchase of parts. In a bid to guarantee continued operation of the factories, the government decided to allow them to export their products.

On government debts to the Central Bank and the budget deficit he said that during the first 5-year plan they will become zero.

Further on President's Remarks

LD0512185389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The special features of the 5-year plan for the economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic were discussed by cabinet members and Majles deputies at a dinner reception which was held at the Majles at the invitation of Mr Karrubi.

In this meeting, after speeches by a number of deputies for and against the plan, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to remarks by the deputies, said: It is clear that no program pleases everyone and I do not expect all of you to welcome this plan. However, all of you know that there have been 5 years of discussions about this plan, both in the Majles and among experts. This is not an ambitious plan, but a realistic plan and it may even be rather conservative. Even if we regard the price of oil as remaining steady, in view of our other capablities and emphasis we place on exports, we will be able to diversify our sources of income.

Referring to the existing capabilities of the country, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We have a large amount of machinery and extensive means of production. If we make proper plans for using them we will be able to have good exports in those fields.

The president added: One of the most important goals of our policies is first, to activate half-completed projects. At the moment, we have about 500 billion tumans [1 tuman equals 10 rials], or about eight times the annual budget of the country, as stagnant capital in unfinished projects. If these are brought to fruition, a great deal of the difficulties and shortages will be removed.

In connection with the healthy activities by those who possess capital, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The sale of shares of factories on the stock exchange is one of the necessary steps which was taken; this can attract a great deal of stagnant capital. At the same time, it is legal.

Regarding the sale of shares, the president said that we have given priority to the workers and employees of productive units. Even if they do not have any money, we will provide them with certain facilities so that they can get loans.

Regarding budget deficits and borrowing, the president said: During the next 5 years the level of government borrowing from the Markazi Bank will reach zero. This year through the sale of competitive foreign exchange we have earned a great deal of money and we will not have any budget deficits.

Majles To Begin Discussions on 5-Year Plan

NC0312075289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Interview with Alviri, head of the Majles Budget and Planning Committee, by correspondent Ahmadzadeh; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ahmadzadeh] Discussion of the bill on the first 5-year plan for the economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to begin at an open session of the Majles this morning. I asked Mr Alviri, head of the Majles Budget and Planning Committee, to comment on this discussion and the priorities that have been taken into consideration.

[Alviri] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The discussion on the Majles' agenda is actually the fruit of the efforts by the many experts from the government and the many Majles deputies who have worked on the 5-year plan since 1362 [year beginning 21 March 1983]. It is now being presented to the Majles for a second reading.

One problem the people are facing now is high prices and inflation. The 5-year plan discusses the roots of inflation, such as the fact that the budget deficit was handled by increasing the amount of cash in circulation, which is one of the main causes of inflation, and the low volume of production. The plan calls for keeping loans from the Central Bank to a minimum until 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] to reduce the amount of cash in circulation. By decreasing the budget deficit and reaching a minimum deficit in 1372, we will be able to harness the unrestrained inflation which has inflicted the greatest pressures on the poor. Thus, our inflation rate will fall from the current 28.5 percent to something like 10.5 percent.

As for production, which is the other side of the equation that causes inflation, the plan calls for an annual 8 percent net increase in our gross national product. If we take into consideration the growth in population, which will average 3.5 percent during the 5-year plan, we will have a per capita increase of about 5 percent in our gross national product. In other words, we can say that there will be an annual 5 percent increase in products and services for each Iranian citizen.

The 5-year plan envisages the creation of 394,000 new jobs annually. With this measure, we will decrease the unemployment rate during the 5-year plan.

Another important step in the 5-year plan, in my opinion, is that great emphasis has been placed on nonoil exports. Nonoil exports are expected to total $18 billion in the 5-year plan. Had we continued to act as we have been doing, our nonoil exports would not be more than $4 billion.

[Ahmadzadeh] Thank you.

Interior Minister Comments on Majles Elections

NC0612093089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Nuri, the interior minister, spoke on the Majles midterm elections scheduled for 24 Azar [15 December]. He said:

In this round of elections, four deputies will be elected to the Majles from the Tehran constituency and the people of Karaj, Kerman, Kordkuy, Kashan, and Kuhdasht will elect one deputy from each constituency. The officials have provided all necessary facilities for holding proper elections.

The interior minister added: The candidates for the Majles midterm elections have the right to continue canvassing until 24 hours before the election and we hope that the elections will be held in a healthy and calm atmosphere.

TEHRAN TIMES on Mid-Term Majles Elections

NC0412171089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Mid-Term Elections and Their Significance"]

[Text] Majles mid-term candidates have unleashed a strong wave of their election campaign in six constituencies, including Tehran, since yesterday following the official announcement of the candidates' names by the Interior Ministry. The campaign is supposed to continue for over a fortnight and will be off the air twenty-four hours before the polling starts on Dec. 15, 1989.

The Tehran election is, of course, fraught with political implications as well as significance. The voters will elect four deputies to fill in the seats lying vacant in the 270-seat Majles (Parliament).

Just a glance through the names of Tehran nominees is quite revealing as to the political importance of this congressional jousting.

Six former ministers all coming from the cabinet of ex-prime minister Hoseyn Musavi have also joined the surging campaign.

Obviously those candidates who enjoy the suport of the influential religious circles like Jame'ye Ruhaniyat or Majma'-e Ruhaniyun will stand greater chance of victory.

There is, undoubtedly, found a certain political grouping and polarization around these two circles.

As has come to light in the course of the last decade it is traditionally expected that Jame'e-ye Vo'az-e Tehran (Association of Tehran Preachers) and the Bazaar's Islamic Council are among the staunch supporters of the Jame'e-ye Ruhaniyat. On the other side we have the Workers' House and the Office of Solidarity, a student association in nature, aligned with the Majma'-e Ruhaniyun.

Meanwhile informed sources believe that the Jame'e-ye Ruhaniyat's candidates will include Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Kermani (Tehran's deputy to both second and third Majles), Mrs. Maryam Behruzi (former Majles deputy), former commerce minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi and former minister of post, telegraph and telephone Morteza Nabavi.

At the other end of the spectrum, it is being guessed that the Majma'-e Ruhaniyun will have personalities such as 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi (the former interior minister), Behzad Nabavi (the former minister of heavy industries), Reza Akrami (the ex-education minister) and the former labor minister 'Abol Qasem Sarhaddizadeh on its electoral ticket.

Political observers here believe that in case of victory, Mohtashemi will soon be seen among the leading hardliners of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles). It is also highly possible, indeed probable, that the ex-interior Minister after having reached the Majles floor will be nominated by the hardliners wing for the post of vice-speakership. The speculations are bolstered by the fact that the wing already enjoys quite a sufficient number of seats to try for the chair and could easily get it.

RESALAT Notes Majles Candidates, Backgrounds

NC0512172389 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez group of Tehran has announced its candidates for the Islamic Majles midterm elections. Hojjat ol-Eslam Beheshti, public relations official of the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez group, has announced: Following discussions and a review of the qualifications of the candidates, the following persons have been considered suitable:

1. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Movahhedi-Kermani;
2. Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi;
3. Engineer Seyyed Morteza Nabavi; and
4. Mrs Maryam Behruzi.

Mr Beheshti added: The central election publicity headquarters for the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez group has been set up at their premises on Hedayat Avenue at the Valiabad intersection. All brothers and sisters in Tehran are requested to contact this office for coordination and centralization of the election activities.

An informed source of the Islamic engineers association said: We will vote for the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez candidates. The Zeynab association also contacted the newspaper and said that it will vote for the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez candidates. Similarly, the Bazaar and Guilds Association of Tehran and the group of the Islamic Cultural Association Coalition will vote for the candidates nominated by the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez from Tehran. We now present a brief biography on the candidates proposed by the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez of Tehran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Movahhedi-Kermani is one of the prominent figures of the Tehran Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez group and has been associated with Imam Khomeyni's movement since the year 1341 [1962]. He was repeatedly arrested by the tyrannical monarchical regime and was among the clerics who arranged the massive marches of 1977 and 1978. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Kermani has been the Tehran Majles deputy for two terms and is also a member of the Council of Experts.

Instructor Habib 'Asgar-Owladi is also among the prominent figures of the Islamic revolution and, according to the imam of the nation, is in the forefront of the Islamic movement. He was one of the figures behind the revolutionary execution of Mansur, then prime minister of the regime. Fourteen years of incarceration and torture in the shah's dungeons transformed him into a self-sacrificing and devoted soldier of the revolution and the people. He held the portfolio of post, telegraph, and telephone minister in the cabinets of martyr Raja'i, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, and Engineer Musavi. He was also the imam's deputy in the aid committee and he still holds this position on behalf of his eminence the leader of the revolution.

Eng Nabavi was born in Qazvin in 1316 [1937] and received his master's degree in electrical and electronic engineering in 1971. He began his political and Islamic campaign during his years of academic life and acquired an indepth knowledge of Islamic studies in the company of well-known teachers and 'ulema. In 1973, he was arrested for activities against the tyrannical monarchical regime and sent to prison. He spent 2 years and a few months in one of the shah's prisons and after the revolution he served in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Later, he worked alongside martyr Qandi in the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone.

In the cabinets of martyr Bahonar, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, and Eng Musavi, he established a record of brilliant performance.

He is at present the editor of RESALAT newspaper and also teaches at the Physics Faculty of the Amir Kabir University.

Mrs Maryam Behruzi was born in 1945 in Tehran. Following her marriage, she completed her diploma course in theological sciences and later pursued a higher course in jurisprudence and philosophy. She is a familiar figure in the Islamic revolution's circle of Muslim sisters. She played a conspicuous role in exposing the filthy face of the previous regime. She was arrested after making a speech at the Qoba Mosque during the idolatrous regime and was banned from the pulpit for a while.

She was elected for two Majles terms by the heroic people of Tehran and has rendered meritorious services in the defense of women's rights in Iran. In 1985, she started an awareness movement for some of our sisters called the Zeynab Association. During her term as Majles deputy, she traveled abroad and delivered

speeches projecting the true face of the free Muslim Iranian woman. Mrs Behruzi is involved in Koranic teachings and interpretation, a critic of the idolatrous regime, a solicitous adviser, and a selfless worker for the oppressed and the deprived.

According to a report, the Islamic Association of Teachers of Tehran and the Association of Islamic Guilds for Production and Technical Services will also vote for the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez candidates of Tehran. RESALAT plans to carry interviews of the candidates for the Majles midterm elections in which they express their thoughts and ideas for the greater awareness of the people.

KEYHAN Announces Majles Election Candidates

NC0612130589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Nov 89 p 2

[From KEYHAN's political service]

[Excerpts] The election headquarters of the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez association of Tehran and the Workers Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the candidates they favor for the midterm Islamic Majles elections from the Tehran constituency. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent contacted the officials of the Workers Association and was informed that the association has also taken steps to establish an elections headquarters for the Majles midterm elections. He told our correspondent that the Workers Association is proposing only one candidate, 'Alireza Mahjub, for the Tehran constituency.

The Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez Association of Tehran had earlier announced the following names of the candidates they favor:

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Eng Behzad Nabavi, 'Abolqasem Sarhaddizadeh, and Seyyed Kazem Akrami.

The officials of the nationwide Islamic Students Associations Union (the office for strengthening of unity) are also studying the suitability of their candidate or candidates.

One of the officials from their office told the KEYHAN correspondent: The office for strengthening of unity will announce its decision on candidates in 2 or 3 days.

According to reports from Tehran, despite heightening canvassing activity on the part of the candidates in five other participating cities, the Tehran candidates have not shown any interest in such a publicity campaign.

One of the KEYHAN correspondents says that ostensibly the reason for this is that most of the candiates from Tehran are well-known personalities who formerly held important posts such as ministers or Majles deputies or similar positions and have established their performance and views in the past years clearly on the various domestic and foreign issues of the revolution and do not feel the need to cover the doors and walls of the city with publicity posters.

However, there are still 2 weeks before the elections and it is too early to make any hasty judgments.

One of the interesting aspects of this round of elections is that despite the fact that 4 days have elapsed since the announcement of the electioneering campaign, the pages of newspapers have not yet been subjected to the onslaught of publicity by the candidates, contrary to the situation in the past elections, when the first sign of such activity was the publishing of advertisements in the newspapers as soon as the candidates were given the official permission to begin their campaign.

Hectic Electioneering Activity in Karaj

The KEYHAN correspondent reports from Karaj that only 4 days have passed since the campaign was initiated for the midterm Majles elections, but some of the candidates have started a frenzied campaign and are daily increasing their activities for the 15 December elections. According to our correspondent, Mehdi Kord has been proposed as a candidate on behalf of the Workers Association, the Islamic Factories Society, and the Islamic Council of Factories in Karaj, as well as of the Society for Retirees.

In this city the campaign of the volunteers at election headquarters seems to have acquired a fever pitch and is intensifying daily. These people have put up banners, posters, and placards on public thoroughfares, and even around water reservoirs, asking people to vote for them. Even more interesting are the various promises the candidates have made to garner support from the strata of the workers and the oppressed in event of their being elected.

Only one on the large number of candidates proposed in Karaj will succeed in getting into the Majles, so it is anticipated that the electioneering rivalry among the candidates will accelerate and intensify.

In any case, the responsible officials and the Karaj district command are busy in providing the necessary facilities for the convening of elections in the best way possible in this district.

Central Bank Extends Foreign Currency Regulations

LD0512094789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Under the country's new currency policies, travellers leaving the country can buy foreign currency from the banking system to the value of $300, once a year.

Central Bank Governor Adeli announced at a news conference today that in order to expand the ways in which foreign currency is presented, the Sepah and Astan-e Qods-e Razavi cooperative associations, the

union guild of agricultural machinery, importers of raw material and spare parts, and a number of producers and importers who have asked to purchase foreign currency, from now on can use the foreign currency sold by the banks.

The Central Bank governor added: In the new stage of implementing the currency policy implementation, sick persons who are sent abroad for treatment under the supervision of the Supreme Medical Council can buy foreign currency, and Iranian students studying abroad, whose currency certificates are no longer valid, can buy as much as $150 in foreign currency monthly, to assist their educational finances.

The Central Bank governor added that the foreign currency rate which is given to importers at the time of opening credit is a temporary rate and in the event the exchange rate of the foreign currency has fallen by the time the goods are imported, then the lower rate will be taken for the sale of the foreign currency. However, if the rate increases, then the higher rate will not be taken from the purchaser of the foreign currency, and thus the intended profit will be guaranteed for the importers.

The Central Bank governor also said:

[Begin Adeli recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As a part of the measures taken by the Central Bank to attain a currency balance and reach a more balanced currency policy, foreign currency is made available to more production units and importers. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Nepal

Trade Delegation Departs for Tibet Talks

BK3011021089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2300 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 30 (AFP)—A high-level Nepalese trade delegation left here Wednesday [29 November] for Lhasa by road for a 10-day visit to discuss ways to develop trade between Nepal and Tibet, officials said. The seven-member delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Damodar Prasad Gautam.

Nepal is trying to increase trade with Tibet in response to a trade blockade imposed by India eight months ago amid a dispute over the renewal of trade transit agreements.

Nepalese authorities say that prospects for expansion of Nepal-Tibet trade in the long run look good, especially since China recently agreed to open at least three more trade routes across Nepal-Tibet frontier.

Officials said there are a total of 19 trade and transit points between Nepal and Tibet along their 1,414-kilometer Himalayan border, though most of them consist of mule tracks.

Japan Signs Accord for Debt Relief, Development

OW3011082589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Katmandu, Nov. 30, KYODO—Japan signed an agreement here Thursday to provide Nepal with nearly 209 million yen (about 41.10 million rupees) in grant-aid to finance debt relief and development, officials said.

The 208,614,000 yen grant will be in lieu of repayment of debt for the October 1988 to March 1989 period, the Nepalese Finance Ministry said.

The assistance will be utilized to purchase development goods such as petroleum products, communications equipment, and chemical fertilizers.

Banned Party Leader Charged With Defaming King

BK0112081289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The leader of the banned Nepali Congress, Mr Ganesh Man Singh, was taken into police custody in Kathmandu yesterday. He has been released on bail. Mr Ganesh Man Singh was detained on the charge of defaming and undermining the king and members of the royal family and the country.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto's Address to Nation

BK0312113589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1419 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most beneficent and merciful. My dear countrymen. Peace be upon you. Today, your sister congratulates you on completing 1 year of the restoration of democracy. To issue congratulations on the anniversary of the restoration of democracy may perhaps appear strange in those countries where the traditions of democracy are old and where democratic life is considered to be an integral part of life. Perhaps the people of these democratic countries, who consider the system of government an essential part of life, may not know of the hardships and difficulties suffered by the people of Pakistan. Perhaps they do not know how many of our people—youths, intellectuals, laborers, and farmers—made sacrifices to see the dawn of democracy and how many difficulties were faced by this Islamic nation of Pakistan to set up a political and social framework according to the dreams of Qaid-i Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the aspirations of the people. For all of us, democracy is not a mere idea; it is a plant that we have planted with our blood. Therefore, the completion of 1 year of democracy is a cause for happiness and pride to us all. Now, it is the responsibility of all of us to stabilize democracy further in the next year.

In the whole world, a new wind of democracy is blowing. This new wave has affected even those countries which were not under democracy before. In communist Poland a noncommunist prime minister has been elected for the first time. The Berlin Wall has crashed down and thousands of people have been able to migrate from East Germany to West Germany and other countries. Hungary has described itself as a democratic nation. Today, all the people of the world want freedom and democracy.

The survival of Pakistan is also in democracy. Democracy unifies federation and guarantees the stability of the country. Undemocratic elements in this country erected obstacles in the way of freedom. The former rulers deviated from their pledges. In spite of pledges to hold elections within 90 days, elections were held long after a period exceeding 90 months. During this period, act of revenge were carried out. Even the judiciary and civil administration were not spared. Political opponents were punished with prison terms, whipping, and the gallows. Fear and anxiety spread throughout the entire country and a situation of civil war was created. Despite pledges in the holy city of Mecca, elections were postponed. And when the elections were held, they were held on a nonparty basis in order to do away with political parties and politics. Thus, it affected federal Pakistan and the country suffered a crisis. The strength of the separatists increased, while groups set up along linguistic lines gained strength. The country became the victim of lawlessness.

Under these circumstances, only the Pakistan People's Party and our friends of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy raised their voices against dictatorship and made sacrifices for democracy. The dignified people of Pakistan faced dictatorship with courage and fortitude. We follow the great sons of Islam in once again proving that truth and justice triumphs at last. The world saluted this courage and fortitude of the lovers of democracy, and the oppressed and patriotic people of the four provinces [of Pakistan] entrusted us with the responsibility to lift Pakistan from crisis and create a spirit of confidence among the people and the nation.

My brothers and sisters, soon after coming to power we released all the political prisoners. We have given full freedom to the press. We have lifted all restrictions on moving out of the country. There are no restrictions in any form on political activities in any part of the country. We have lifted the restrictions on students and labor unions. For the first in the history of the subcontinent, fired laborers have been reinstated and the rights of women and minorities have been protected. Special quotas have been allocated to them in employment.

We have granted so much freedom that some people have even asked us not to extend that much freedom because undemocratic forces will take undue advantage of it. But we have not listened to them. We have not discarded democratic norms to stick to power.

My brothers and sisters, when you entrusted us with the responsibility of taking up the reins of administration, the condition of the country was very poor because of a long dictatorial and undemocratic rule. The financial and economic condition of the country was extremely bad. Due to erroneous policies, the stability of the country itself was in peril. Deals on the nuclear reprocessing plant were canceled, ruining Pakistan's dream for atomic energy. The treaty of the Durand Line [separating Pakistan and Afghanistan], which was signed by the martyred prime minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and Sardar Daud [former prime minister of Afghanistan], was sabotaged. Work on the Wular Barrage [in India] had begun by then. An attempt was made to divert the attention of the people from the Siachen issue by saying that there is nothing but snow in Siachen and not even a blade of grass grows there. Conflicts were mounting among the people and a feeling of hatred was created.

Dear countrymen, we do not want to bury ourselves in the past. Whatever happened in the past is now part of history. Our aim is to look toward the future. We are dreaming of a bright and attractive future, and we want to see the fulfillment of that dream. Our dream is to enable the poor people of this country to improve their social, financial and economic conditions with dignity and honor in an atmosphere of independence and democracy. Although we have just stepped into the democratic era, it is the responsibility of all of us to protect democracy. We all should steer this democratic system, whether we are in power or members of the opposition. We will fulfill our responsibilities by being in power and we will definitely protect democracy.

I also appeal to the opposition leaders to play their role in strengthening the democratic process and to cooperate with us. We believe in federal Pakistan. We do not have any differences with the provincial governments. We want to see the provinces become stronger. The powers of the Center and the provinces are clearly laid down in the Constitution. The Constitution guarantees the powers and rights of all the provinces.

We will maintain the supremacy of the Constitution. We expect the opposition leaders, especially those who sided with us and participated in the struggle launched by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy and made sacrifices to restore democracy, will help us in maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution and they will not overlook the constitutional limits regarding the relations between the federation and the provinces. In this lies the welfare of all of us and in this lies the country's and nation's interest.

If we are to keep democracy alive in the country, it is also imperative that we make economic progress. Your elected government is aware of this fact. That is why we have taken many steps for industrial and economic progress along with the defense of democracy to improve the economic situation of the people.

We have reduced government expenditure by 300 crore rupees and this saving has been allocated for the People's Program or the people's development programs. The only aim of this program is to remove difficulties of the people living in far-flung villages and slums in urban area. There is opposition to this program and efforts have been made to prevent implementation of the people's development schemes at many places. This program is only for the poor and for their welfare. I expect that opposition to this program will cease in the larger interests of the people.

Pakistanis confidence in their country and in themselves has increased because of the elected government. This is reflected in the fact that Stock Exchange share values have increased by 53 crore rupees. The daily increase in share values between December last year and November this year is between 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs rupees, meaning an increase of 100 percent. Along with this, remittances by overseas Pakistan have increased by 22 percent because they now have more confidence in their nation.

Agricultural and industrial production has also increased. Oil and gas production has increased by 22 and 10 percent respectively. Large corporations in the public sector like the [Karachi] Steel Mills, the Heavy Mechanical Complex, the Karachi Shipyard, and the Engineering Works have shown profits for the first time and this has benefited both workers and economy.

Beginning this month the government is launching an extensive vocational training program under which 40,000 to 50,000 unemployed youths will be given professional training for 1 year. The government will also give them scholarships during this period so that they become economically self-reliant after the training.

The Government will provide a comprehensive health policy—a health cover—to the people in near future. Under this revolutionary program about 50,000 rural health workers will be recruited to provide health care facilities and medication to the deprived at their doorsteps in villages.

This year alone, the government has provided electricity to 2,600 villages as compared to the last government's effort to provide electricity to less than 200 villages a year.

During the next few months the private sector will be further promoted. The government has already allowed a cargo airline and educational television in the semi-private sector. Along with this the government has allowed some private investment banks to operate. By May next year the first phase of the privatization of industry will be settled. A special bank has also been set up for women to serve poor people in accordance with Islamic teaching.

Your elected government has also taken various steps for industrial development. We have encouraged investment and introduced a simple new procedure for investment. A board of investment has been set up to approve proposals of more than 1 billion rupees. This board has so far approved various investment proposals worth more than 43 billion rupees and, under the simple procedure, there is no need for the government's approval for projects requiring investment of less than 1 billion rupees.

The credits extended by banks this year are 40 percent more than in previous years because under the current decentralization policy our banking institutions have gained the confidence to take decisions and provide credit without delay for projects which will push forward the economy. All less developed areas have been declared backward to facilitate the extension of credit by regional financial corporations.

Along with industrial and economic progress, the government is also striving to serve the religious cause. Under the new hajj policy the number of pilgrims [to be sent to Mecca for annual pilgrimage] has been increased from 34,000 to 40,000 under the regular scheme. Pilgrims' living conditions during the hajj have also been improved and under the sponsorship scheme, there will be no limit on the number of pilgrims. In the past hajj flights departed from Karachi and Islamabad, but now the these will also take off from Lahore airport as well.

Significant changes have also taken place in the regional and international scene. The Soviet troops have left Afghanistan. The war between Iran and Iraq has ended. Relations between the Soviet Union and China are improving. There is a relaxation of tension between East and West.

We want peace in the entire world. The Soviet troops have withdrawn from Afghanistan this year, but even after the Soviet pullout, peace and tranquillity have not been restored in Afghanistan. We want to see a early end to the Afghan war so that the Afghan refugees can return to their homeland with honor. This will be possible only when a broad-based government chosen by the people is established in Afghanistan.

Agreements have been signed between India and Pakistan not to attack each other's nuclear installations; this has helped to improve bilateral relations. By virtue of our efforts, India has stopped work on the construction of the Wular Barrage. Now negotiations will be held on this issue. We are confident that a solution to this problem will be found through negotiations.

India's increasing military strength, particularly the Agni missile and the nuclear submarines, is a matter of concern for us. We will never never remain oblivious of our defense and will not allow our national interest to be harmed in spite of maintaining friendly relations with India on the basis of equality.

Pakistan's prestige in the entire world has been enhanced due to the coming into power of a representative government in the country. Pakistan was readmitted to the

Commonwealth. International institutions reissued funds frozen earlier for strengthening Pakistan's economy.

The United States has provided 60 F-16 aircraft to Pakistan and despite its own budgetary deficit, it has continued aid to Pakistan.

The acquisition of a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant from China is yet another milestone in our foreign policy. This is our people's success. We are thankful to the Government of China and Prime Minister Li Peng for their assistance in our peaceful nuclear energy program.

Pakistan has also played a big role in promoting regional cooperation in the region. We desire the best of relations with our neighbors. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit was held in Islamabad last year and was very successful.

Pakistan also wants to see better relations with the Soviet Union. The production minister visited the Soviet Union recently. We hope our relations with the Soviet Union in economic and other fields will grow.

My fellow citizens. During the dictatorship, a gulf was created between the military and the people. We gave our first priority to and considered national reconciliation our objective. Today, by the grace of God, the defense of our nation is in strong hands. The basic cause for this is that the Armed Forces and the people are one. We have enhanced the honor of our Armed Forces and directed their entire strength toward the defense of Pakistani frontiers. Our enemy now knows that the entire Pakistani nation is united and the military and the people are one.

My brothers and sisters, a problem which was passed on to us as a legacy of martial law, is the issue of lawlessness in Sind. Bitterness was created among various sections and groups of people in Sind as part of a premeditated scheme. Elements in Sind who are against the stability of Pakistan have been encouraged, and there has been an attempt to split society on linguistic lines. There was only one motive behind these efforts and it was to reduce the popularity of the Pakistan People's Party in Sind by some means or another. No thought was given to the outcome. The issue has not yet been solved and the situation has not yet been normalized. However, if we refer to statistics we see that during the year crimes have come down. In particular, the linguistic problems have been reduced. Still we have a lot more to do, and, God willing, we will do it. But I appeal to all the people living in Sind to cooperate with the government to improve the situation.

An important priority item before our government is to end corruption in society. In the past, the predominant cause for bribery and corruption was the defective economic system. Nobody was accountable before Parliament or before the people. It was a system where the authorities were wielding power according to their will and gave nationalized industries to whom they liked.

Another cause for corruption was discretionary powers. The government is taking efforts to reduce these powers. Along with this we have to end the culture of corruption from society. Recently, the government decided to the lift the restrictions on the import of gold. The objective behind this decision was to end the smuggling of gold and corruption in the country. The democratic government is closing in on the smugglers and other enemies of society. We would like to take effective steps to prevent any big or powerful person from misappropriating loans taken from the banks, which are the earnings of the people. We have reorganized the federal anticorruption committee to end corruption.

Our fight against corruption is continuing. It is clear that the persons who have been getting fat with money earned through the smuggling of gold and narcotics and from corruption will oppose us. They know that the democratic government is the only obstacle in their way. We will face their opposition while serving the people. God has given us the courage. The prayers of the people are with us. We can confront smugglers, bribe takers, and tax evaders and their illegal wealth. Illegal wealth has created a habit of extravagance in the society. We want simplicity. Therefore, the government has imposed a ban on the purchase of new vehicles for 1 year. First class air travel by officials has also been limited. We believe in simplicity. We want to build a society which is based on the values of humanity, fraternity, brotherhood, and truth. We believe that these values will equip individuals, society, and the nation with lofty ideals and lead them toward the right path. We want to build a nation according to the dream of Qaid-i Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and for whose fulfillment the sons and daughters of Pakistan have made sacrifices with their blood.

My brothers and sisters, there is a big difference between dictatorship and democracy. In dictatorship, there is tranquillity like that of a graveyard. In democracy, there is agility and every person is independent. One can make any sort of criticism—legitimate and illegitimate. It is clear that when we are building the nation, those persons who have been brought up in a defective economic system have been affected. When we promote national thinking and national culture, the people who have been brought up in regional politics and who have faith in it are affected. We know that the section of people who are in favor of special benefits will oppose us. Because we are from among the people we want only the love and the honor of the people. We are prepared to bear anything for the sake of people. Those persons who find fault with us and raise their voices are afraid of the fact that the dictatorial era has ended. The era of the people has set in. They are afraid that Benazir is the voice of the people. My brothers, sisters, and friends. The fact is that they are afraid of you because we are united. Our aspirations, dreams, motives, thinking, and goal are one, and that

goal is for an era of progress and well-being. We believe in God and we have confidence in the truth of our mission.

My brothers and sisters. Today am I happy to announce on the occasion of the first anniversary of this elected government that loans to farmers in the entire country will be doubled from today onward. For this, I have directed the Finance Ministry to increase by 100 percent the value of the produce index unit on the basis of which the financial institutions extend loans. Previously, farmers were able to get 25,000 rupees from banks; staring today the amount has been increased to 50,000 rupees. I am confident our working farmers will be able to take full advantage of this and will increase the national productivity.

Ours is a great country. The investment of this country is its 100 million people. Let us join together to enhance the honor of Pakistan. Let us burnish the lamp of democracy. Let us adopt social justice and economic development as our objectives. Let us settle all our issues in the light of the commands of God and His holy prophet. Long live Pakistan.

Spokesman Comments on V.P. Singh's Remarks

BK0512151489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan has always expressed the desire to hold a meaningful dialogue with India on all bilateral issues, including the nuclear issue. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today while commenting on a reported statement by new Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh on negotiations with Pakistan on the nuclear issue. He said Pakistan does not believe there should be a nuclear race in South Asia. He categorically stated that Pakistan does not possess any nuclear weapons, nor does it intend to produce any.

Referring to the Indian prime minister's remarks that Pakistan should start negotiations, the spokesman said Pakistan has made several proposals to India for an understanding on the issue since early 1974. But India failed to respond to any of these proposals.

In reply to another question, the spokesman recalled Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's statement that Pakistan's nuclear research program is not intended for military purposes, but for completely peaceful objectives. Pakistan hopes the new Indian government will cooperate in keeping the region free from nuclear weapons.

Direct Contact Between USSR, Mujahidin Urged

BK0512154789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Excerpts] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan always wants to hold a meaningful dialogue with India on all bilateral matters, including the nuclear issue. [passage omitted]

On Afghanistan, the spokesman said that Pakistan wants to see the establishment of direct contact between the Soviet Union and the Afghan Interim Government [AIG], and it will continue its efforts in this regard. He said the recent release of two Soviet prisoners of war [POW's] has created an improved atmosphere, resulting in the first meeting between Soviet and AIG representatives. They had another meeting a few days ago in Washington as well. The spokesman said Pakistan considers the POW issue a humanitarian problem and will continue its (?special) efforts for the release of more Soviet and Afghan POW's.

Punjab Chief Criticized for Wular Barrage Remark

BK0512033689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Ahmad Sayeed Awan, has urged the self-styled custodians of the rights of people to desist from desecrating the honor and dignity of the high office of the president by firing statements to negate the position explained by the president in his address to the parliament on Wular Barrage. In a statement in Islamabad, he took serious exception to the repeated rhetoric being flared up by the Punjab chief minister regarding the construction of the Wular Barrage. He said the Punjab chief minister should have kept quiet after the president had clarified the position of the federal government regarding the Wular Barrage. But he regretted that Mr Nawaz Sharif was displaying a cold shoulder even to the highest authority in the state.

Mr Ahmad Sayeed Awan said that in fact Mian Nawaz Sharif was afraid of the accountability for his disregard to the cause of the national interest by playing up sensitive issues like the Wular Barrage. He also referred to Mian Nawaz Sharif's earlier statement on the C-130 crash [plane crash in which President Ziaul Haq was killed] that the Punjab government would set up an inquiry commission to investigate the Bahawalpur crash. He said that the president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has set up a high-powered commission to probe the C-130 crash. As the principal coordinator, Mr S.K. Bundyal had already announced his findings of the issue. There was no justification for the Punjab government to meddle into the affair and cast aspersions on the investigation commission set up by the president.

8 Killed in 'Group Clashes' in Quetta, Karachi

BK0412130789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1240 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Pakistan say that at least eight persons were killed and several injured in group clashes and firing in Quetta, Karachi, and Rawalpindi since yesterday. Seven persons including three women were gunned near Dera Murad Jali in Quetta when unidentified persons attacked a group of (Abro) tribe.

Combined Opposition Leaders Meet President 1 Dec

BK0212082989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Leaders of the combined opposition parties had a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. Led by Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the delegation discussed with the president matters of national importance and briefed him about the collective stand on them. The president emphasized the need to sort out differences through negotiations in a spirit of accommodation and according to the internationally-accepted democratic norms.

Commentary Urges Economic Cooperation With USSR

BK2611093889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] [Soviet Ambassador] Mr Yakunin has expressed a desire of his country to establish relations with Pakistan which could fit in line with Soviet policy for the Asian-Pacific region. Such a policy clearly indicates that forging relations on a footing better than [words indistinct] Pakistan. Pakistan would welcome any move for improvement which it could have an understanding with its neighbor USSR, which is a superpower. [sentence as heard]

Despite certain differences in perceptions and approaches, Pakistan has never hesitated to respond favorably to any gesture of goodwill from the Soviet Union. Pakistan being a small country in equation could not take an initiative in this regard which might make a different sense. [sentence as heard] Pakistan has staunchly pursued a policy of promoting peace and harmony in interstate relations. However, in protection of its own economic and valid political interests, it had to draw a line different from some other countries. But this would never mean to invite a conflict.

The world we now are living in has a different complexion than it had before the forties. However, most of the international issues views suggested by the Soviet Union have been identical to those held by Pakistan. This, as rightly observed by the Russian ambassador, acquires a special significance today when the world, tightly interconnected, has been passing through a complex period. Urge for understanding and promotion of peace and harmony has emerged as the most wanted recipe for today's world. Conflicts have not served cause of human welfare at any stage of history. The word detente if forcefully pursued is destined to bring Pakistan closer to the Soviet Union. With the resolution of Afghanistan problem through an intensified political process, happy tidings would reach soon and better terms of ties could flourish faster.

A delegation from Pakistan led by the federal minister of production is already in the Soviet Union and it is to sign a protocol envisaging a $100 million Soviet assistance for expansion of the Pakistan Steel Mill which was installed with financial and technical assistance from the Soviet Union. Besides this, Guddu thermal power station and Multan thermal power project are other milestones in sound economic relations already forged between the two countries in the past.

These would remain as fountains of inspiration to cement their friendly relations further in times to come. Expansion of the Pakistan Steel Mill is bound to provide a momentum in this direction. The $100 million assistance would enable Pakistan to buy equipment from any source it finds economical. This loan carries 5 percent interest and it is repayable in kind through exports of goods and in garments.

Over the years, Pakistan has got a surplus trade balance with the Soviet Union and the arrangement for repayment of the fresh loan is conducive to the [word indistinct] relations. Over the past 5 years, trade between the two countries has increased. However, there is still tremendous scope for a further increased trade between them as the two countries have complementary form of economy.

Assessing the past history of the two countries, their relations have been punctuated by ups and downs, not due to any direct conflict between them, but for other reasons. Having this been realized, a climate of warming up relations is emerging. The period between 1970 and 1984 was important, as in these years material economic assistance was arranged by the Soviet Union to support economic health of Pakistan. (?Kremlin believes), as categorically observed by the Soviet ambassador the other day, in maintaining good-neighborly relations and constructive cooperation based on equality and shared benefit. The day is not far away when friendly relations between the two independent countries would further strengthen. Pakistan cherishes restoration of respectable relations with its neighborly superpower, the Soviet Union.

Sri Lanka

Another IPKF Contingent Leaves Trincomalee

BK0512090689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Another contingent of IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] left Trincomalee today for home. The contingent was seen off by senior army officers and others at Trincomalee. The contingent is reaching Madras tomorrow.

180 JVP Subversives Surrender, Reject Violence

BK0512115189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Life has returned to normal in the Southern Province except for a few incidents. LANAKAPUVATH Southern Province correspondent reports that all public

and commercial establishments are fully functioning. Work has resumed in the plantation sector, including 22 rubber factories, which had been forced to stop work due to subversives threats. Tea and rubber factories which were damaged are being repaired. Arrangements are being made to build new factories in place of those in place of those which were destroyed by subversives.

Security forces said that 180 disillusioned hardcore JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] cadres had surrendered to the authorities. Many surrendered their weapons while others led security forces to hidden caches of arms and ammunition. The 180 JVP cadres have eschewed violence and said they want to become dutiful citizens of use to the country and to make amends for the wanton destruction of life and property they caused. The national youth service council and other government agencies have begun a program of rehabilitation of these subversives who have surrendered during the last 2 weeks.

420 Subversives Surrender to Security Forces

BK0612110689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0740 GMT 6 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 6 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—In five days four hundred and twenty subversives gave themselves up to the security forces in various parts of the island. At Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, two hundred subversives have given themselves up to the security forces.

A government communique issued today states that in Kegalle security forces conducting cordon and search operations at Yatiyantoa, Talliyadda, Hingula, Ussapitiya and Dehiowita areas arrested nineteen subversives. Four subversives who tried to escape at Dehiowita were shot and killed by the security forces. During operations conducted in the Ragala area by security forces six subversives were arrested, and from a hideout recovered a roneo [copying] machine, samples of leaflets stating "Janatha Puwath Sevaya", stencils, duplicating papers, leaflets stating "Wedihiti Sisuwage Hi Hisata Wedi", roneo ink tubs, JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] notebooks, gunpowder, cartridges, pellets and fuse wire.

Sixty three subversives were arrested within the last twenty four hours. In Batticaloa militants fired heavy mortar and small arms at the Batticaloa police station and the former deputy inspector general's office building now converted to police barracks. Reinforcements were sent from Kallady by the special task force. There were no casualties to the police. In Vavuniya five armed youth suspected to be TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] members robbed two motorcycles and goods from a lorry.

Premadasa's Congratulations to V.P. Singh

BK0212135289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1044 GMT 2 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a congratulatory message to new Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh has said that the people of Sri Lanka specially welcome Mr Singh's statement that among his first tasks will be to seek to improve relations between India and Sri Lanka. The relations between the two countries had unfortunately come under strain in recent times. "This has resulted in much conflict and suffering inflicted on our people", said President Premadasa.

The president further said in his message of congratulations to the Indian prime minister "Over many centuries our relations have been characterised by warm friendship, mutual understanding, and close cooperation in many fields. I am confident that with your sagacity and statesmanship, these strains will be removed and our relations restored to their traditional cordiality and friendship".

Text of congratulatory message from his excellency R. Premadasa, president, to his excellency Shri [Mr] V.P. Singh, on the occasion of his assumption of office as Prime Minister of India.

"The people of Sri Lanka join me in extending to you our warmest felicitations on your appointment as prime minister of the Republic of India.

We wish that the hopes and aspirations you hold for your people will be fully realised during your stewardship of your great country. The people of Sri Lanka specially welcome your statement that among your first tasks you will seek to improve the relations between India and Sri Lanka. The relations between our two countries have unfortunately come under strain in recent times. This has resulted in much conflict and suffering inflicted on our people.

Over many centuries our relations have been characterised by warm friendship, mutual understanding and close cooperation in many fields. I am confident that with your sagacity and statesmanship, these strains will be removed and our relations restored to their traditional cordiality and friendship.

You take over the leadership of your country at a critical time in world history, at the dawn of the final decade of the twentieth century. We wish that all your actions will reflect the wisdom enshrined in the Bhagavad Gita [a religious book of the Hindus].

"Whatever action is performed by a great man, common men follow in his footsteps. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues".

May these noble ideals illuminate your work in your tenure of high office as prime minister of India.